

The Syracuse Chemist

Volume 103/Issue 6



November 2011

Special Election Issue: meet your candidates!

Elected positions

The **Chair-Elect** serves the Section for three years: one year as Chair Elect, the next year as **Chair**, and the following year as immediate Past Chair. Typically the Chair calls meetings of the Executive Committee, runs meetings of the section (dinner meetings or other programs), appoints members to other committees, and coordinates Section activities. The Chair is also responsible for an annual report to national ACS staff on Section activities during his or her year as Chair. The Chair Elect has an opportunity in January to attend (at ACS expense) a weekend ACS Leadership institute with other section officers from around the country. The Chair Elect also plans section activities for his or her Chair year. Both the Chair Elect and Past Chair assist the Chair in coordinating Section activities. The Chair Elect, Chair, and Past Chair also serve as members of the Nominations and Elections committee. **Because the position of Chair Elect is currently vacant, we must elect both a Chair and Chair Elect this fall.**

The **Secretary** takes minutes of Executive Committee meetings, reports election results to the national ACS, and is generally responsible for formal communications on behalf of the Section. The term of the Secretary is one year, and the Secretary may be re-elected.

The **Treasurer** is responsible for budgeting, handling the Section's funds, and paying its bills. The term of the Treasurer is one year, and the Treasurer may be re-elected.

The **Councilor** represents the Syracuse Section at national meetings of the ACS Council. The Councilor is part of the governance system of the national organization and is also a member of the Section's Executive Committee. Typically the Councilor attends the national meetings (at ACS expense) of ACS to attend the meeting of the Council and other governance meetings. The Alternate Councilor is a member of the Section Executive Committee, and he or she attends the national Council meeting if the Councilor cannot. The Alternate Councilor will be the runner-up in the election for Councilor. The term of the Councilor and Alternate is three years (2012-2014).

The Executive Committee has four **Delegate positions** without specified duties other than to participate as voting members in deciding Section business and to assist in tasks as needed. In order to encourage participation from all areas of the Section, two delegates must live or work outside Onondaga County; the other two may be from anywhere in the Section. Delegate is an entry-level position in Section governance and service. Under the new Section bylaws, delegate terms are two years (with re-election possible), and two Delegates would be elected each year. In order to get the Delegates in place, all four Delegate positions are up for election this year: two for two-year terms (2012-13) and two for one-year terms; one of each must be from outside Onondaga County.

Candidate for Chair

Bill Ayling

Bill is an environmental consultant with over 20 years of experience. In 2010, he began Integrated Science, LLC which provides consulting services to help organizations to meet environmental and sustainability challenges. Bill's capabilities have been applied to a wide range of projects that require understanding of complex environmental systems and site characterization capabilities to develop technical designs that balance uncertainty and risk. Bill has led a wide range of multidisciplinary teams ranging from site investigations and risk assessments to alternatives analysis, conceptual design, and construction. His clients have included Fortune 100 companies, regulatory agencies, utilities, attorneys, and commercial lenders.

Bill's specialization in environmental chemistry has supported over 40 water related projects throughout the eastern U.S. Projects have included trace metal cycling in Adirondack lakes (Master's thesis) and evaluations of the fate and transport of VOCs, SVOCs (including PAHs/tars), PCBs, pesticides, and metals associated with contaminated sites and aquatic systems. To help organizations go beyond current regulatory requirements, Bill also applies scientific principles to help clients understand true liabilities that may affect their organizations in the future. Application of nature's design principles and Green Chemistry are areas of specific interest for reducing human and environmental exposures to anthropogenic materials in the environment. Bill is a graduate of SUNY Albany with a degree in Biology and Syracuse University with a master's degree in Environmental Engineering. Previous employers include O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc., Blasland & Bouck, and Syracuse University.

Bill has been a member of ACS for nearly 24 years and currently serves the Syracuse Section of ACS as Chair of the Sustainability/Public Relations Committee and as the Appointed Chair-Elect. To support the Syracuse ACS public relations efforts, he attended the Sparkle Communications workshop held at ACS National in Washington, D.C. last spring. Bill was one of the Syracuse ACS organizers of the SUNY Oswego Sustainability Fair that received two Chemluminary awards from National ACS last summer. He is also the organizer of Syracuse ACS participation in Green Drinks. He is an ACS Chemistry Ambassador and Science Coach. Locally, Bill is also actively involved in the Otisco Lake Preservation Association as a technical advisor and grants manager, and a founding member of the Advocacy Committee of the Upstate NY Chapter of the US Green Building Council. Bill is also a member of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Central New York Air and Waste Management Association (CNY AWMA), Environmental Law Institute (ELI), New York Water Environment Federation, the Adirondack Research Consortium, the Biomimicry Institute, and The Natural Step (TNS).

Candidates for Chair-Elect

Neal Abrams

Dr. Neal Abrams is a faculty member in the department of chemistry at SUNY ESF. He obtained his bachelor's degree in chemistry and certification in teaching from Ithaca College, completed his doctorate at Penn State University, and was a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University. At ESF, Neal instructs the general chemistry labs, co-teaches a course in renewable energy, and directs a chemistry research program centered on renewable energy.

Neal is an appointed member of the Younger Chemists Committee, an official ACS Committee and serves as the chair of the Communications subcommittee for the group. At the local level, Neal has been recently appointed the interim Education Chair and National Chemistry Week leader for 2011. He is also the faculty advisor for the ESF chemistry club, the Alchemists, and works with high school teachers throughout the state on bringing renewable energy into the classroom. Neal's various outreach experiences have garnered him the 2010 TACNY Technology Outreach Award.

Outside of his professional obligations, Neal enjoys fixing his house, brewing beer, and spending as much time as possible time with his family.

Fehmi Damkaci

Dr. Fehmi Damkaci is assistant professor of organic chemistry in the Department of Chemistry at SUNY-Oswego. He received Ph.D. in organic chemistry from University of Maryland College Park in 2004, under the guidance of Dr. Phillip DeShong. He worked as a post-doctoral researcher on the total synthesis of heterocyclic compounds and molecular machines under the guidance of Dr. Ross Kelly at Boston College. In 2006, Dr. Damkaci joined the faculty at SUNY-Oswego, where he currently teaches organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and nanomaterials.

Dr. Fehmi Damkaci is the director of graduate program director, co-chair of general education reform task force, and the director of GENIUS Olympiad (www.geniusolympiad.org). He was the co-chair of the organic chemistry symposium at NERM 2010 conference. He is also the director of "high school summer science immersion research program" designed for inner-city high school students. In addition, he also serves on the chair of a public school board and the founder and the chair of a non-profit education and science organization.

Dr. Fehmi Damkaci will increase the programs at local high schools and each college campus that ACS-Syracuse section serves. He will support the new programs organized by chemistry departments to increase the awareness about chemical sciences among high school students. His experience with program development and organization at both college and high school level will increase the visibility of ACS-Syracuse section not only in Syracuse but in all districts that ACS-Syracuse section serves.

Candidates for Councilor

Kestutis Bendinskas

Dr. Kestutis Bendinskas is Associate Professor of Biochemistry in the Department of Chemistry at SUNY-Oswego. He graduated in 1991 with a Chemistry Engineer degree (Environmental Science track) from Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology in Moscow, Russia. He received his Ph.D. in Photochemistry from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1995, under the tutelage of Dr. Robert William Midden. After his postdoctoral studies with the renowned Dr. Lawrence Grossman in the Department of Biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, he directed Bioorganic and Biochemistry labs at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, for 4 years. After two years as Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Sciences at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, in 2003 Dr. Bendinskas joined the faculty at SUNY-Oswego, where he currently teaches Biochemistry and Environmental Science.

Dr. Kestutis Bendinskas is Northeast Sigma Xi Associate Director and Symposium Coordinator, Director of the Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Center at SUNY-Oswego, and primary editor of the Biochemistry section of the American Journal of Undergraduate Research. His current research is about lead- and mercury-induced changes in the human proteome. He participates in education research by developing new biochemistry and proteomics teaching laboratories. He actively engages young minds in these activities—his six publications in 2010–2011 include eleven student co-authors. He has coordinated six annual NE regional research symposiums, most recently at Stony Brook University:

<http://www.oswego.edu/~bendinsk/sigmaxiconference.html>

Dr. Kestutis Bendinskas believes that all chemists should have interesting section-supported events at their respective locations. If elected, he will work diligently to inform members of opportunities available through the ACS, actively participate in many activities of the ACS Syracuse section, and attend all national and regional meetings in order to organize and run the 2017 NERM at SUNY-Oswego at a level that you all would enjoy and be proud of.

Alyssa Thomas

Alyssa Thomas is an assistant professor of chemistry at Utica College, where she joined the faculty in 2009. She received her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and biology at Heidelberg University (formally Heidelberg College) in Tiffin, Ohio and completed her Ph.D. in chemistry at Ohio University under the direction of Hugh H. Richardson. Her professional interests include physical chemistry, inquiry-based chemical education, nanotechnology, and undergraduate research. She has been active in the Syracuse section since moving to New York in 2009, serving as a delegate and Awards Chair. She has actively participated in a number of nationally recognized Syracuse section events including National Chemistry Week.

Goals/Vision for the Office: I am seeking the elected office of Councilor to represent the Syracuse Local Section and its interests/concerns at the national level. I am excited about the opportunity this office presents to be a bridge between our local section and the larger ACS governance board, as well as the prospect for professional development. I believe it is important for our entire constituency to be represented and to be the voice of their goals, concerns, and achievements. I am passionate about being a chemist and this office would give me the chance to network amongst our members and discern the various needs of those chemists in both industrial and academic environments. I would hope to continue to laud the past achievements of our section and strive to be an effective communicator between all interested parties at the local and national levels. 4

Candidates for Treasurer

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Robert Fleischman

BS Chem/minor Biology LeMoyne College. Worked for Dialysis Clinic Inc for over 9 years as a machine technician and responsible for water purification equipment as well as ordering treatment supplies. Millipore Corporation for 13+ years as a Field Engineer (Customer Care Engineer) in the Northeast region. Judge for the Greater Syracuse Scholastic Science Fair for over 3 years.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a passive member of the Syracuse Section of the ACS for many years. It's time I started to contribute in a more meaningful way. I am hoping that my 20+ years of using my chemistry degree in an indirect manner will allow me to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the Syracuse Section. I would be honored to serve as treasurer of the Syracuse Section.

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Candidate for Secretary

Jamie Cucinotta

Jamie Cucinotta is in her thirty-eighth year of teaching chemistry and during that time she has been an active member of NSTA, STANYS and ACS. She started an ACS ChemClub at Fayetteville-Manlius High School where she received a grant from ACS to write labs for an inner city parochial school where many of the new immigrants go to school on the North side of Syracuse. They bought equipment and delivered a book of labs for the teachers to use.

Jamie has been the Science Olympiad coach at both Cicero-North Syracuse HS and Fayetteville-Manlius HS. At FM she won the New York State Championship nine times in a row. Besides being the advisor for ACS ChemClub and Science Olympiad coach, she also the National Honor Society co-advisor. Over the years she has won several honors, including Philip Martin Educator of the year, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year, STANYS Service Award, Northeast Teacher of the Year in Chemistry from the National Chemistry Association, and Syracuse Technology Club teacher of the year. She also won the NERM ACS Teacher Award in 2005.

Jamie would be honored to serve as the secretary of the Local Syracuse Section.

Candidates for Delegate

Delegate outside Onondaga County (will be 2)

John Fleischman
Nicole Snyder
Alyssa Thomas

Delegate at large (will be 2)

Don Dittmer
John Fleischman
Elizabeth Mitchell
Nicole Snyder
Alyssa Thomas
Steven Joseph Tomaszfski

Delegate Candidate Biographies

Don Dittmer

Donald Dittmer received his Bachelor of Science in chemistry at the University of Illinois and his PhD at MIT. He is now Emeritus Professor of chemistry at Syracuse University. In the local Syracuse Section, he has served as treasurer, councilor, and chair of the section. Donald is an active member of the section and would like to serve as a delegate for the Syracuse Section.

John Fleischman

John Fleischman, an ACS member since 1985 is a graduate of LeMoyne College with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. He is a Senior Research Scientist with Pall Corporation in Cortland NY with over 19 years experience in materials characterization and process development. Prior to that he was with Will & Baumer in Liverpool NY for 7 years responsible for wax, color and fragrance formulations as well as raw material and finished goods QC/QA. John has also served as a judge for the GSSF, Cub Scout leader and church volunteer. John resides in Cortland along with wife Virginia and son Jonathan, a freshman at Ithaca College.

I am honored to be asked to run as a district delegate candidate for the Syracuse section. Up till now, my only involvement with our section was to serve as a judge for the GSSF. The delegate position presents an opportunity to become more involved in section activities. As an industrial scientist, I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the Executive Committee. If elected, I will do my best to serve the members of my district as their ACS liaison.

Elizabeth Mitchell

Elizabeth (Eilish) Mitchell is a senior at Syracuse University, majoring in chemistry and forensic science. She plans to continue her studies at Syracuse by completing a masters of science in science education to become a high school chemistry teacher. Having served as secretary for the Syracuse section for the past 2 years and restarted the Syracuse University student chapter of the American Chemical Society, she would like to stay an active member of the section by serving as delegate.

Nicole Snyder

Nicole L. Snyder graduated with B.S. degrees in Chemistry and Biology from Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA in 2000. In 2005, she earned her Ph.D. in Bioorganic Chemistry from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT working under the guidance of Dr. Mark. W. Peczu. Snyder joined the Hamilton College faculty in Clinton, NY as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in 2007 after a two-year Visiting Assistant professorship at Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA. At Hamilton College she teaches Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II, Research Methods and Immunopharmacology. Her current research interests lie in the preparation and characterization of chemically and biologically relevant carbohydrate-based constructs that can be used to investigate the role of carbohydrates in a number of processes from catalysis to the study of bacterial infections and cancer. Snyder has published papers in Organic Letters, the Journal of Organic Chemistry, Carbohydrate Research, Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry, and Tetrahedron Letters. She is also a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, Sigma Xi and the Council on Undergraduate Research.

Alyssa Thomas

Alyssa Thomas is an assistant professor of chemistry at Utica College, where she joined the faculty in 2009. She received her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and biology at Heidelberg University (formally Heidelberg College) in Tiffin, Ohio and completed her Ph.D. in chemistry at Ohio University under the direction of Hugh H. Richardson. Her professional interests include physical chemistry, inquiry-based chemical education, nanotechnology, and undergraduate research. She has been active in the Syracuse section since moving to New York in 2009, serving as a delegate and Awards Chair. She has actively participated in a number of nationally recognized Syracuse section events including National Chemistry Week.

Goals/Vision for the Office:

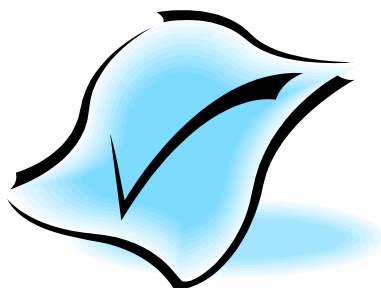
I am seeking the elected office of Delegate to represent my constituents and their interests/concerns at the Syracuse Local Section level. I have been a delegate for the past two years and have enjoyed interacting with the members at events and would love the opportunity to continue in this capacity as well as increase my interactions with the members for which I would be elected delegate.

Steven Joseph Tomaszfski

Steven Tomaszfski is currently a biochemistry major at Syracuse University, in Syracuse, NY. He is from Lancaster, PA where he lives with his parents Joe and Lori, and his siblings Kenny and Stacy. In his spare time, he enjoys playing lacrosse, watching movies, and discovering new music. Steven plans to attend graduate school at either Penn State or Wake Forest University with a focus in toxicology. Ultimately, he would like to work for the CDC or the Dept. of Homeland Security, where he would work with the detection, prevention, and effects of biotoxins in the body. Steven would like to serve the Syracuse Section as a delegate.

Draft Ballot

The next page is a draft version of the ballot that you will be seeing in your e-mail box later this month. We have a great slate of candidates for this year, so please show your support for your candidates and VOTE!



2011 Ballot

Chair (Vote for 1)

Bill Ayling
 write-in _____

Chair-elect (Vote for 1)

Neal Abrams
 Fehmi Damkaci
 write-in _____

Councilor (Vote for 1; runner-up becomes Alternate Councilor)

Kestutis Bendinskas
 Alyssa Thomas
 write-in _____

Treasurer (Vote for 1)

Fehmi Damkaci
 Rob Fleischman
 write-in _____

Secretary (Vote for 1)

Jamie Cucinotta
 write-in _____

Delegate outside Onondaga County

(Vote for up to 2. Only members outside Onondaga County may vote.)

John Fleischman
 Nicole Snyder
 Alyssa Thomas
 write-in _____

Delegate at large (Vote for up to 2)

Don Dittmer
 John Fleischman
 Elizabeth Mitchell
 Nicole Snyder
 Alyssa Thomas
 Steven Joseph Tomaszfski
 write-in _____