

C3 Winter Newsletter

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY CANADA



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Our President—Bill Blann

President's Message: Remember the Awards

Two Awards were not presented at the 2007 conference for lack of nominations, and one factor governing the absence of nominations may be that the membership at large (that's you) is not fully aware of the existence of these awards - even a new Regional Director indicated that he did not realize there was a General Student Scholarship as opposed to the Host College scholarship. Thus these remarks.

The General Student Scholarship

In addition to the Host College Scholarship, which is securely in the control of the college hosting the annual conference, there is a General Student Scholarship available to students in the colleges of the whole membership at large, in that any member in good standing (that is, anyone who has paid the \$20 for the year) can nominate a worthy student as a candidate for this award.

A description of the scholarship is given on the Awards page of the C3 website: basically, candidates may include students in or entering chemistry related and chemical technology programs, and the award is \$400.

The last nomination for this scholarship was made in 2005. Among the hosts of students who can't tell their chemical glue from their elbows, it is hard to believe there are really no students out there who are worthy of kudos for their promise in studying chemistry - or that among those driving to college in their Mercedes there are none for whom \$400 would prove as useful as the kudos where every penny helps; and we do have some pennies to distribute for such a cause.

So how about some nominations, fellow instructors? We now have a new deadline for nominations, January 31, which is conveniently placed for consideration of

a new student's first term performance and the results of Christmas exams, and would allow the nomination to bear fruit at the conference at the end of the same term. Would it not be fitting to put some of our money into a cause we have long promoted?

The C3 Award in Chemical Education

There is also the C3 Award in Chemical Education. This award (according to part of the description - again - on the Awards page of the C3 website) "shall be offered annually to honour a person who has made substantial contributions to chemical education at the College level. In selecting the recipient of the Award the committee shall consider primarily the contributions of the nominee to enhancing the quality of teaching in an area of chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical technology. Meritorious contributions to furthering chemical education through C3 is also to receive due consideration".

A candidate nominated for this award must be a C3 member in good standing and have been a member of C3 for the past 5 consecutive years. The deadline for nominations for this award is January 1. The full details are on the website Awards page.

Note Extensions to these deadlines will be discussed at the next C3 board meeting and notifications will be sent out shortly afterwards.



Figure 1: John Dalton caricature courtesy of Edgar Fahs Smith Collection, University of

Symbolism in Chemistry by Dietmar Kennepohl

Chemistry is immersed in symbolism of all kinds. This is somewhat surprising considering it is one of the relatively newer disciplines in natural philosophy. Still, there are images, ideas, and even stereotypes that have come to be closely associated with it. Some of the symbols are quite new like the white labcoat, while others, like holding and examining a flask at eye level, are much older (Figure 1). As a chemist, one quickly realizes the double-edge nature of symbols that can depict both positive and nega-

tive images. As a chemical educator, one is sensitive to how these are used in public presentations or teaching in the classroom. However, there is one particular category of chemistry symbol that warrants particular attention—namely the symbols we use to represent the unseen at the molecular and atomic level. These formulae can certainly aid in the communication and understanding of the chemical transformations, but they can also be a barrier to learning for the newcomer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- From Kwantlen College: Claude Lassigne retired from the chemistry department at Xmas (2007), after 30 of service.
- From Kwantlen College: Bob Perkins be retiring at the end of 2008 (he started with Kwantlen in 1983).
- Andrea Robbins from Kwantlen College has been nominated for the General Student Scholarship

Interesting Periodic Tables

Sometimes it is nice to have a new spin on an old concept. The periodic table is full of interesting data but these people have put a new perspective on it to try and entice students. Maybe your students will find these interesting enough to actually look at the periodic table long enough to remember it!

The Periodic Table of Comic Books.....click on any of the elements and a list of comic book(s), the number, year and page number to which the particular element is referenced is given. For those students that love comics this periodic table gives them a

“real life” reference to where they can find them!

<http://www.uky.edu/Projects/Chemcomics/>

A Visual Interpretation of the Periodic Table...this site is a Flash based website of the periodic table. It includes short little videos along with histories of the elements for those of your students that are visual learners and love the interactive computer graphics. It also interprets the table on the basis of electronegativities, densities, etc and creates art from these that can be downloaded to your computer. So if you enjoy the

combination of art and science check this site out.

<http://www.chemsoc.org/viselements/pages/page3.html>

Periodic Puzzle Page...on this page you can have your students complete the periodic table like a puzzle. You don't have to do the full table but can pick and choose groups and or families of elements. The shading of the table can be changed as well according to properties. This is good for those students with more tactile learning.

<http://www.spectroscopynow.com/coi.cda/tools/periodic..html>



Thinking about how wonderful the C3 conference is going to be.....?

Editor's Note by ArLana Moskalyk

Happy New Years to all! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday break...I sure did but thought it was pretty short!

We here at NAIT are starting to get excited about the upcoming C3 conference. The web page is up and running. I have sent around a small advertisement for the conference to a lot of colleges across the country. If you

would like a copy of the ad please feel free to email me so that you can forward it to any interested parties I didn't contact. Registration is now open** and we are all excited to see you here in Edmonton.

The new semester is well on its way and the students are already counting down the days until the semester is over. Graduation weighs heavy on

their minds right now. I'm sure you are all experiencing the same from your soon-to-be grads.

Please keep in mind that I am hoping to send out another newsletter in the spring and there is an award to be given out for the most interesting contributions, etc (see website for details. arlanam@nait.ca).

Take care and see you in

**Registration link for C3 → www.c3.douglas.bc.ca/2008/registration/

Brief Biographies of Potential C3 Speakers



Dr. Chao-Jun Li

Dr. Chao-Jun Li (Potential Keynote Speaker)

Dr. Li is currently a chemistry professor at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He is also currently the Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Organic/Green Chemistry. In 2007 Dr. Li received the Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) as well as the Canada Foundations for Innovation award. Among his many other distinctions are Innovator of the Year Award (2002) from the City Business Association of New Orleans and the United States Presidential Green Chemistry challenge Award (2001).

Dr. Li's research group's focus is "Green Chemistry" in organic synthesis. A summary of their research as well as more information about Dr. Li himself can be found at <http://cjli.mcgill.ca>



Dr. Suresh Narine

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Dr. Narine is currently an associate professor and NSERC Industrial Research chair at the University of Alberta here in Edmonton. His research group's main focus is lipids. Some specific title of specific research includes "Synthesis of High Value Chemicals from Renewable Resources", "Structure and Functionality of Polymers from Renewable Sources", and "Application of Analytical Chemistry to Lipid Crystallization". Specifics of Dr. Narine's research as well as more of his own accolades can be found at <http://www.afns.ualberta.ca/people/Index.asp?page=Directory&ID=492>



Andy Dicks

Andy Dicks

Andy is currently the UG Associate Chair and a Senior Senior Lecturer at the university of Toronto in their chemistry department. He has been recognized for his outstanding student approval rating (average 6.5 out of 7). He received the Ranijini Ghosh Excellence in Teaching Award for the 2006-2007 year. This award is presented by the Arts and Science Students Union annually to an outstanding instructor and is chosen by the students. Andy's research is focused in the field of undergraduate education with a concentration of microscale organic lab experiments. His research and other accolades can be found at <http://www.chem.utoronto.ca/peoples/>



Can you figure out what the end product is of this chemistry experiment?

Round about the caldron go;
In the poisoned entrails throw
Toad, that under a cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got
Boil thou first i'the charmed
pot.
Fillet of a fenny snake
wool of bat, and tongue of
dog,

Adder's Fork and blind worm's
sting,
Lizards leg and howlet's wing
Like a hell broth boil and bubble
Scale of dragon; tooth of wolf;
Witches mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravin'd salt sea shark;
Root of hemlock digg'd i'the
dark;
Liver of blaspheming Jew;
Gall of goat; and slips of yew
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-strangled babe

Ditch-deliver'd by a drab-
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron
For th'ingredients of our caldron.
Cool it with a baboon's blood.
When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning or in rain?
When the hurlyburly's done?
When the battle's lost - and won?
(Will we find, ere set of sun,
Our sister from the nick is
sprung?)
And who will crack Graymalkin's
quiz?
And name the product of this biz?