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Saskatoon, SK

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

(Idylwyld Dr. and 33rd St location)

Chemical Technology Program

Invites you to participate in the

43rd C3 Conference

in

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

on

June 9th, 10th, 11th, 2016

Theme:

“Outstanding in their Field: Putting Chemistry Knowledge to Work”

Upcoming Deadlines

Abstracts April 15

*5 or 15 minutes,
Chemistry education or
industry/employment*

Registration May 15

(to avoid late fees)

See tentative schedule on page 5

*Further details at
www.collegechemistry.ca*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Our Conference Is Like PIE!)

Are you going to this year's Conference? Can we set up a conference call for next week? Which team's leading the Eastern Conference? We should hold a Press Conference. Are you staying near the Conference Center? Ahh... Conferences... as we all know, there are many uses of the word. But for us educators and academics, the one that most impacts our lives at this time is attending or presenting at the "Annual Conference".

These Conferences are, functionally and etymologically (yup! that's your word of the day!), a bringing together of folks to converse or "confer" about their particular disciplines or fields. Over the years, they have taken on lives of their own, becoming an industry all to themselves, and can be huge economic engines for city or region. And sometimes, not all that appetizing. So what's the appeal? Why do we spend the lim-

ited money we have, and precious time we're given, to travel across the country (or sometimes the world!) to hang out and listen to talks? Well, let's look at our very own 43rd Annual C3 Conference through the Five W's lens:



Bruno Cinel, C3 President

WHO attends the C3 conference? Only a great group of chemistry educators, presenters, and keynote speakers from across the country. The beauty of a C3 conference is the more relaxed and intimate setting where actual conversations and discussions happen... and no mad dashes and sneaking in to the back of a crowded room to catch the next talk.

President's Message (continued...)

WHAT happens? Well, each conference has its own unique taste and feel, but ours traditionally feature interesting local tours, thought-provoking talks, a wonderful conference banquet, always entertaining fun run, and... ahem... mandatory, yet merry... annual general meeting...

WHERE are they? Over the past 43 years, C3 conferences have been almost literally from coast to coast to coast, including a memorable dip into our southern neighbor, the US. But this year has us visiting the "Bridge City" or "Paris of the Prairies", none other than Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

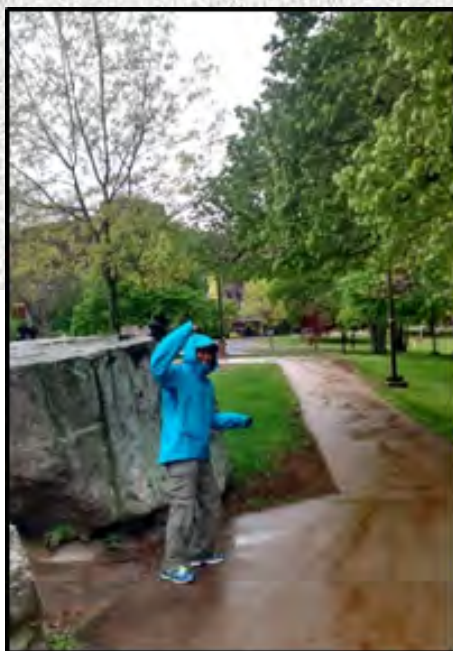
WHEN? From June 9th to 11th, immediately after the CSC2016 conference in Halifax... like dessert, saving the best for last :) !

WHY? Best summed up by the super People, Ideas, and Experiences you will find there... and as an acronym, who can say "no" to nice slice of warm PIE?

P.S. Even if you have to say no to this serving of PIE, remember to visit our website to renew your 2016-2017 membership (only \$20, same price as in 1979) to save your spot at the dinner table!

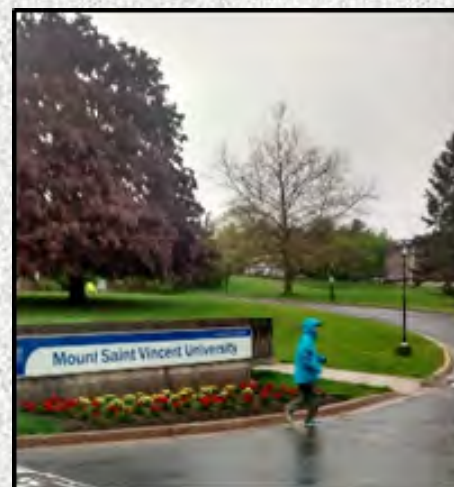


1. A Number of Possibilities



The opening shot has our intrepid learner, Dr. Jimmy Lowe, braving the elements to enthusiastically and excitedly invite us to join him in the Annual C3 Fun Run!

2. Getting Some Proof



Being a consummate scientist whilst knowing most conference-goers would be skeptical and still warm and snug in their beds, our fearless chemist ensures photographic hard evidence of his exploits.

3. Getting Some Rest



Unfortunately, an energetic night dancing at the conference banquet has left our runner with little free energy...

4. Grabbing A Ride



...so an alternate mechanism is proposed that introduces a different pathway.

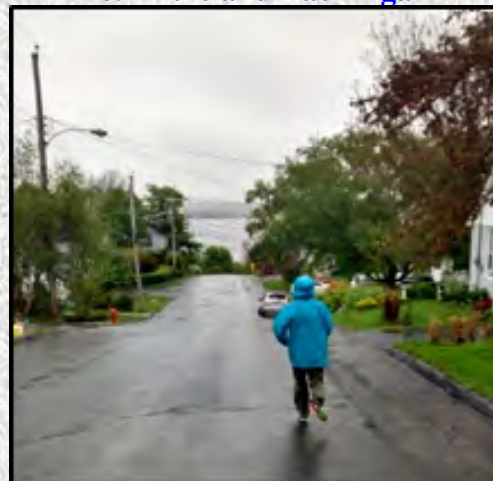
....MORE FUN RUN 2015

5. Overcoming Obstacles Part I



However, there is always an energy barrier to overcome...

6. There and Back Again



...and we must remember all reactions are reversible.

7. Waiting for the Ducks to Cross



It is at this point that our brave scientist and fun-runner realizes he will not be competitive this year. The fowl news and reality sinks in... the coveted Willard Gibbs trophy will not be his.

8. Meeting Our Nemesis



Finally, a glimpse of our only competition and foe. The effortless style and grace of Shirley only increases the resolve of Dr. Lowe to finish the race!

10. Overcoming Obstacles Part II



With the end so near, our valiant participant's steely gaze cannot see the easy way forward, that lies slightly to the left... or slightly to the right.



11. At the End... Gracious in Defeat



In the end... even though it may not rank up there as a transformative educational experience... it still remains a memorable and "Fun Run".

Never trust atoms. They make up everything!

Dietmar Kennepohl, *Athabasca University*



The famous modern cultural historian Johan Huizinga contended that the instinct of play permeates so many of our human endeavors that he described us as *Homo Ludens* (playing man) rather than *Homo sapiens* (knowing man). Without a doubt, there is a strong and established connection between play and learning (Kolb & Kolb, 2010) that teachers exploit instinctively. Educators in chemistry know that injecting a little humour in the classroom can often change the tone and the dynamics of a group. It can be a valuable aid that inspires interest and fosters genuine student engagement in the classroom. Humour is also a part of a much larger effort to introduce unusual activities to enhance learning and student participation. These innovative avenues to learning chemistry have included plays, poems, puzzles, games, songs, proverbs, famous quotations, biographies, and even literary references.

Even if you are 'humour challenged,' there are some basic strategies and principles that can be successfully employed. (1) Immerse yourself in humour (including chemistry re-

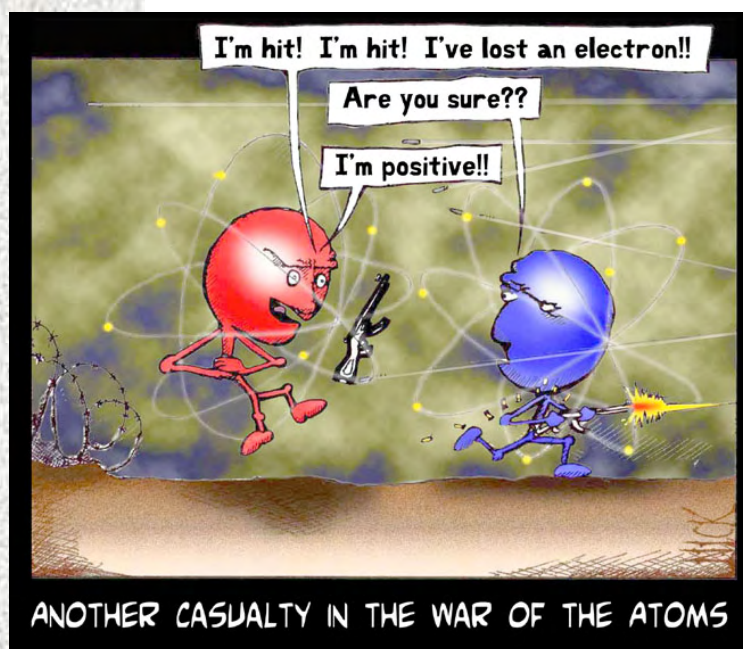
lated) and become self-aware of what is funny and what is not. (2) Keep a file of cartoons, music, videos, and humorous quotes. (3) Add a few comical items to assignments, tests and laboratory manuals. (4) Have students share jokes or provide a caption for a cartoon or picture (Warning: screen these first). (5) Keep an eye out for spontaneous opportunities for fun—both life and chemistry can be surprising and absurd. (6) Finally, make sure to laugh at yourself. Before you and your students snigger yourselves silly, you should also be cautioned about some potential problem areas that are not so funny. As the Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann notes (2011, p.327), "If too much humor is used students may fail to take the course or instructor seriously. Also, the sense of humor is very individual—what one person thinks is funny, another finds stale." The lesson here is to use humour judiciously and purposefully. Also, when considering venturing into topics like gender, religion, sex, drinking, drugs, or using sarcasm, morbid humour, vulgar expressions etc. be very sure not to be offensive or disparaging. If unsure, it is better not to go there in the first place.

To end on a more positive note, the expectation of great humour or any humour at all from chemistry instructors is really quite low. So, give it a try. When it comes to levity, we have nowhere to go but up!

References

Kolb, A. Y., & Kolb, D. A. (2010). Learning to play, playing to learn: A case study of a Ludic Learning Space. *Journal of Organizational Change Management*, 21(1), 26-50.

Kovac, J., & Weisberg, M. (Eds.). (2011). *Roald Hoffmann on the philosophy, art, and science of chemistry*. Oxford University Press.



Cartoon from http://www.lab-initio.com/sci_chemistry.html

C3 (Saskatchewan Polytechnic) Conference 2016 Tentative Schedule

Thursday June 9 2:00 Educational visit to Waneskewin Heritage Park (optional)
5:00 Board Members Meeting
7:00 Registration and Social at SaskPolytech (33rd St & Idylwyld Dr)

Friday June 10 Registration continues at SaskPolyTech
8:00 – 10:30 Canadian Light Source Tour (optional)
10:30 Coffee
11:00-12:00 Keynote Speaker
12:00 Lunch at SaskPolyTech
1:00 – 3:00 Symposium Presentations
3:00 Coffee Break
3:30 – 4:30 Symposium Presentations
4:30-5:30 AGM for all C3 members
6:30 onward Banquet at Bessborough Hotel Terrace Room

Saturday June 11 7:00 Very Fun Run/Walk
9:00-10:00 Keynote Speaker
10:00 Coffee/nutrition break
10:30 – noon Symposium Presentations
12:00 Lunch at SaskPolyTech
1:00 – 2:30 Symposium Presentations
2:30 Coffee Break
3:00 – 4:30 Symposium Presentations
Close of conference

Each evening we hope to socialize at the U of S residence in a suite that we have booked.

See the website for the updates

<http://collegechemistry.ca/conferences/16conf/conf2016.html>

Contact Shirley or Lucie (Conference Organizers) with Questions

Lucie: Lucie.Clark@saskpolytech.ca

Shirley: Shirley.Barlow@saskpolytech.ca

The C3 executive hopes to see you at the conference!

Bruno Cinel – President

Sudhir Abhyankar – Past President

Brenda Addison-Jones – Treasurer

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Lucie Clark and Shirley Barlow – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, 2016 Conference Organizers