

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY CANADA

College Chemistry Canada



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Message from the President

Another year has arrived. It should be an exciting one given that it is the International Year of Chemistry especially as we look forward to the upcoming C3 Conference in Montreal in June! It may still seem many months away with classes to teach, meetings to attend and work-related activities to plan. I hope that this Conference will give us cause to celebrate the positive impact of Chemistry on our lives and the key role of Chemistry in solving ongoing real-world problems. At the same time, we can consider how to most effectively pass our enthusiasm about Chemistry on to our students in the Information Age. So start planning now to attend this exciting Conference and consider presenting a talk or showcasing a demo or putting up a poster. The topics are not limited to the Theme of "Chemistry in the information Age". As always, we welcome presentations on anything related to Chemical Education.

On a more personal note, I

have attended many of the annual C3 Conferences since the early 1990s while teaching Chemistry and Physics by myself at a small campus. This gave me a chance to informally interact with fellow Chemistry educators from all parts of Canada (as well as the US and elsewhere) at least once per year. We are really a very friendly group. Our members teach or have retired from teaching Chemistry at all types of places - traditional Research Universities, Undergraduate Universities, Colleges and Highschools. I hope that through word of mouth, we will attract many new C3 members - those just beginning a career in Chemical Education as well as well-seasoned ones. So let's continue to convince others about the relevancy of this organization. Also feel free to share the C3 Newsletter and the C3 website with others in your own sphere of influence. Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome too. They don't have to be long or overly

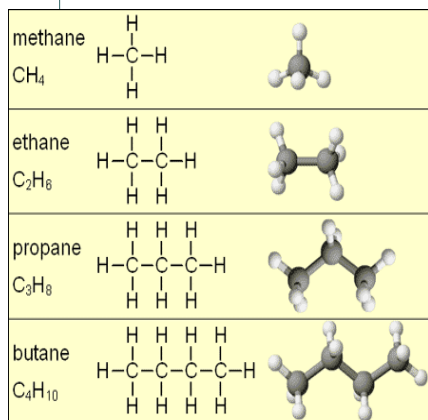


Martin Lettinga—President

original - as illustrated by my own short article on tie-dyeing.

If you have a chance, please take a look at our C3 website. There will be regular updates about registering for the upcoming Conference, accommodations and submission of abstracts. We are exploring the use of PayPal, so stay tuned! The March and April issue of C13 News (U. Of Waterloo) will run a paid ad for the C3 Conference. The website will also have a link to C3 on Facebook shortly, once I am done updating the FB page. Have a great rest of the year teaching Chemistry. Hope to see many of you in Montreal in June!

Memory Aids For Chemistry



Memory aids such as mnemonics help students to become familiar with material covered in chemistry. Here are two examples that I have used in my classes. *First letters* use the first letter of a series of words to make a sentence that is easy to remember. By association, the students can then use the letters to recall the correct terms.

ME Parrot Bites Pink Horses Here ON DECK.

This is used to help students learn the first ten straight chain alkanes: methane, ethane, propane, butane,....decane.

Another one that students can try is to write AEIOU stories to tie-in concepts. AEIOU represents *absurd, enthusiastic, interesting, outrageous and unique*. Students are asked to read the story and then translate all the concepts onto paper such as chemical reactions or definitions of terms.

The Atomic Bar (One Atom Stand)

Silver went into the atomic bar with his shiny metal luster. He was planning to do some bonding tonight. "Where was that table

with the nonmetal chicks?" he wondered. Over at the bar he ordered a shot of oxidation and it cost him an electron. He was ready for the halides but not the chalcogens since they were *doubly charged*.

After reading and class discussion, the student should be able to pick out specific information such as the physical / chemical properties, oxidation to +1 for silver, and other concepts.

Happy Writing ! - Jimmy Lowe



Nursing Students with dressed-up skeleton - with permission from The Williams Lake Tribune, Nov.18,

2010



Two highschool students in the midst of tie-dyeing - with permission from The Williams Lake Tribune,

Nov.19, 2010

Tie Dyeing Still a Big Hit with Students

In November, one of the two local highschools decided to organize a Trippy Hippie Dance. We were just in the process of organizing a week-long Talk Series and Open House Night on our small campus. At the last minute, the Highschool Dance was moved to the same evening as our Campus Open House Night.

However, not all was lost. I invited highschool students to our campus to teach them how to tie-dye after school two days prior to the Dance. It required a quick trip to the local fabric store to pick up some quality dyes (Dylon permanent fabric-reactive

dyes containing Drimarene-K) followed by some practice runs at home. A dozen highschool students participated, most of whom tie-dyed several clothing items and T-shirts. My own introductory Chemistry students also participated (one of them even tie-dyed a matching outfit for her dog) along with several Nursing students who needed some stress-relief at the end of the day. The highschool students returned the next day to pick up and rinse out their finished product since we kept the tie-dyed shirts overnight in sealed plastic bags in a constant temperature bath or in a lab-oven at

around 60 °C. My own students also completed a library assignment on a fabric dye.

If you would like a copy of the Library assignment or the tie-dyeing instructions, feel free to e-mail me

<mailto:mlettinga@tru.ca> or leave a message at 1-250-392-8112

An excellent resource guide can be found at <http://www.pburch.net/dyeing/howtotiedye.shtml>

Marten Lettinga, C3 President - Thompson Rivers University, Williams Lake Campus

38th Annual C3 Conference

"Teaching Chemistry in the Information Age"

Dawson College, Montreal,
June 1-3, 2011

Plan now to attend at this beautiful campus in downtown Montreal to share your teaching ideas while take in some exciting festivals -open to highschool teachers and post-secondary educators. You could even stay on for 2011 94thCSC (June 5-9). Important information available at: collegechemistrycanada.ca



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"Chemistry can be a good and bad thing. Chemistry is good when you make love with it. Chemistry is bad when you make crack with it."
[Adam Sandler](#)

Call for Abstracts for the C3

We welcome abstracts submitted in the following topic areas.

2011: International Year of Chemistry "Building on a Historic Legacy"

2011 is the International Year of Chemistry. Presentations profiling the impact of modern chemistry and its historic basis.

Chemipedia? - Searching for Chemical Information

Using Wikipedia and related web page based information services. Discussions of the issues of peer-review (or lack thereof).

Computer-based Teaching Aids

Use of clickers and electronic feedback devices in the classroom

Lab Experiments/Demos and Other Topics

New experiments and demos are always fun. If you have a presentation that doesn't otherwise fit...

<http://collegechemistry.ca/Conference/conf2011.htm>

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Editor's Note

Well one year has almost passed since I had my beautiful daughter. I am looking forward to returning to work and interacting with my students again. I am also looking forward to finishing up my master's degree. This year has been challenging but I am looking forward to the new challenges of going back to work. Teaching at home and teaching at school is definitely different! I hope that the new year brings all of you good news and many happy moments. See you all soon. If you have something you would like to see in the next newsletter please email me at arlanam@nait.ca

C3 Student Award

The C3 executive voted during the October Executive Meeting to increase the award value of the two Student Awards from \$400 to \$800. The two awards, the "C3 Host College Student Scholarship" and the "C3 General

Student Scholarship", are intended to help a student pursue studies at a Canadian College or University (or other post-secondary educational institution) in science, and to raise the profile of College Chemistry Canada.

More information and nomination procedures can be found on the [Awards](#) page.

[http://
collegechemi-
stry-
canada.ca/pages/
awards.html](http://collegechemistrycanada.ca/pages/awards.html)



My family and I in Costa Rica

C3 is on Facebook

Yes we have joined the craze. If you are on the social network, Facebook, search for College Chemistry Canada. Join the network and stay connected with other chemistry teachers across Canada.

