

DEL-CHEM

JANUARY 2014

Volume 81/1

Bulletin

Networking Happy Hour



**Delaware Section of ACS
Networking Happy Hour
Wednesday, January 22, 2014
5:30 to 7:30
Seasons Pizza • Concord Pike**



For information on section activities visit our web site at:

www.delawareacs.org

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CHAIR’S COLUMN

Season’s Greetings and Happy New Year! Hope all of you had a safe and wonderful holiday season. I am excited and honored to serve as the section chair and to work with a terrific group of young and experienced chemistry professionals. I am looking forward to an exciting year for the Delaware Section of the American Chemical Society.

First and foremost I must thank Tiffany Hoerter for her excellent service as Chair last year. She did a lot of hard work in 2013 namely setting up a new and better Delaware ACS website, updating the sections bylaws etc. She has been an immense help in helping me transition to the Chair role. We truly appreciate her service to the section. It’s definitely going to be a tough act to follow. I am also extending my sincere appreciation to the executive committee for their continuous support and involvement in making 2013 another successful year for the Delaware Section. Justin Chan will be the Chair Elect for 2014 and I am very excited to work with him.

One of my goals this year is to increase the support to develop interest towards science primarily chemistry among middle school, high school and undergraduate levels in the form of more awards, grants and support. I would also like to increase participation in our section meetings by offering a variety of programming and networking activities starting with our January meeting.

We will be kicking off the year with a Happy Hour at Season’s Pizza, 3901 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803, January 22nd at 5:30 -7:30 pm. Please try your best to attend the event and let us know what type of activities and programming you would like to see this year. This would also be a great opportunity to network with fellow members. We will send a short electronic survey for those unable to attend.

We have several interesting talks and events in January at the Chemical Heritage Foundation related to chemical industry. Dr. Chad Tollman will speak about Climate Change, Sea level Rise and Flooding at the ChemVets meeting. We will also have an opportunity to meet Senator Coons at a lunch event on Jan 17th.

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In Memoriam—Albert S. Matlack and Wallace McCurdy

Compiled by Andrea Martin with thanks to John Burmeister, Paul Silver, Kent Matlack & Doug Albertson

Recently, the Delaware Section lost two long-time members and educators who leave a remarkable legacy. **Dr. Albert S. Matlack** died in early November at the age of 90. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and his doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Al was a research chemist at Hercules (now Ashland) for many years, with 130 US and foreign patents to his credit. He also worked on the Manhattan project. He was a meticulous researcher, and tutored many new hires on the proper use of inert atmosphere techniques. Dr. Paul Silver, a colleague, writes, "For many reasons Al Matlack would fit in the category of 'Most Memorable Character.' He stood for the highest level of ethics in practicing his science. On the one hand he would offer any help and guidance when approached. On the other hand he did not suffer fools lightly (re: corporate bureaucrats) and let them know it in a very gentle way. His 'green' thinking permeated his life. He practiced what he preached. It was not unusual to see him poking through trash cans to see what he could recycle. Some people thought him strange. To me he was a truly unique and likeable person."

Upon retirement in 1993 (after 43 years at Hercules), he began teaching a graduate course in Industrial Chemistry at the University of Delaware. He decided to combine his passions for chemistry and the environment to develop a course in green chemistry, which he was still teaching at the time of his death. Dissatisfied with the available textbooks, he wrote his own, "Introduction to Green Chemistry," which is now in the second edition. In 2011, Al was profiled in the Chemical & Engineering News Blog as "The Guy with the Questions at NOS" (see <http://cenblog.org/newscripts/2011/06/the-guy-with-the-questions-at-nos-albert-s-matlack/>). Dr. John Burmeister at the University of Delaware writes, "...he was most famous for his insatiable curiosity, which surfaced in his attendance at virtually every seminar given weekly in our department. He NEVER failed to direct a probing question (or two, or three...) to each speaker, irrespective of topic.... He authored a string of Letters to the Editor which were published in C&E News, under the general rubric of environmental concerns." Al was well-known in New Castle County for his passionate participation in many conservation efforts, including the bottle bill, walkable communities, preservation of old growth forest, and maintenance of parkland. Al was president of the Society of Natural History of Delaware, and he and his wife were avid participants in a group of Scottish/English country dancers. Al eschewed driving a car whenever possible, commuting 2.5 miles to Hercules by foot regardless of weather, picking up cans as he went. Al is survived by his wife, Elsie, sons Glenn and Kent, and their children. Al joined the ACS in 1949. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Dr. Wallace Hutchinson McCurdy Jr., associate professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Delaware, died on November 20, 2013, at the age of 87. A campus memorial service will be planned for early in 2014. Dr. McCurdy obtained his bachelor's degree from Penn State College in 1947, the same year that he joined the American Chemical Society. He obtained his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois. He taught at Princeton University until 1959, when he moved to the University of Delaware. Affectionately known as "Qually Wally," he was a professor of analytical chemistry until his retirement in 1992. Dr. Burmeister referred to Dr. McCurdy as "an American original — truly one of a kind." Active in community service, Dr. McCurdy was a founding board member of the Newark Day Nursery, tutored at West Park Elementary School, supported the Delaware Science Olympiad, and was a key officer in the Delaware Academy of Sciences.

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Delaware ACS Networking Happy Hour



1. Provide input to the executive committee on future events
2. Network with fellow members

Date: **Wednesday, January 22nd, 2014**
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Location: Season's Pizza, 3901 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803
Cost: FREE
Pizza will be provided.
Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages will be available for cash or charge at the bar.

Please register so that we can have enough food.

Registration:

1. Use the link provided on the section website, <http://delacs.sites.org>, or in the Del-Chem Bulletin distribution announcement to register online.
2. E-mail delawareacs@gmail.com to receive a link to online registration
Members who are unable to register online should call Rakesh Nambiar at 302-695-2760

Chemical Heritage Foundation Priestly Society Luncheon

“Private Equity and the Chemical Industry: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities.”

Chris Pappas

Date: January 9, 2014
11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Location: CHF 315 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Event Type: Open to the Public
Fee: \$25
Registration: Required



<https://www.chemheritage.org/secure/register-for-an-event.aspx?eventid=83109>

This installment of the Joseph Priestley Society (JPS) lecture series will include a keynote address by Chris Pappas, president and CEO, Styron, who will present "Private Equity and the Chemical Industry: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities." What is it like to work for a chemical company owned by private equity, and how does it differ from working for a chemical company with a public ownership structure? This lecture will take a closer look at recent examples of private equity transactions in the industry and what the future may hold for this trend.

Schedule:
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Networking reception
12:15–1:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:00–2:00 p.m. Keynote address

For more information about this event, please contact Sarah Reisert, awards program manager, at 215.873.8263 or sreisert@chemheritage.org.

AIChE Delaware Valley Section Presents 17th Annual CEO Lecture

Speaker: Bruce D. Rubin
Principal of Rubin Consulting, LLC
Director of Braskem America, Inc.

Date: Tuesday January 21, 2014

Times: 6:00 PM Reception
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Speaker

Place: Union League
140 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-563-6500

Reception and Dinner in the Meade Room

Please note: The League requires a jacket and tie be worn by men, and appropriate attire for women. Jeans, denim wear, or sneakers are not permitted

Cost: \$70.00 per DVS Member
\$75.00 per nonmember or guest
\$35.00 per student
\$560.00 per table of eight
Cash Bar

Details:

<http://www.aiche-philadelphia.org/events/events2014/0121rubin.htm>

For further information please contact Doug Kriebel at dkriebel@kriebel-ltd.com or 215-364-3400.

Lunch with United States Senator Christopher Coons

*presented as a joint meeting of MIT Club of the Delaware Valley
& Delaware Section of the American Chemical Society*

- Date:** Friday, January 17, 2014
- Time:** 11:30 AM – Lunch
Noon – Presentation by Senator Coons followed by Q&A
- Location:** Brantwyn Estate at DuPont Country Club
600 Rockland Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
www.dupontcountryclub.com
- Directions:** <http://www.dupontcountryclub.com/Directions>
- Cost:** \$25 for members of the MIT Club or ACS and their guests
\$35 for non-members
\$20 for MIT10 alumni and students
Costs are used entirely to cover event expenses and will not be used for political purposes.



Reservations:

online via MIT Infinite Connection (deadline is Wednesday, January 15) Please visit <http://delawarevalley.alumclub.mit.edu> for reservation information

For Questions:

 John Gavenonis (jgaveno@alum.mit.edu)

Science and technology are critical components of several topics of current national interest. In particular, public policy addressing American competitiveness, energy independence / security, and environmental concerns requires the knowledge of the scientists and engineers who study the technical underpinnings of these challenges. In her 2011 Technology Day address, former MIT President Susan Hockfield stated, "[Congress] would be much aided hearing from the MIT alumni in a single voice to articulate the important role for federal funding of basic research and development as the foundation of America's economy." Similarly several American Chemical Society President Marinda Wu has emphasized the importance of advocacy by members of the scientific community to influence the construction of sound public policy. This meeting is a rare opportunity to meet with United States Senator Christopher Coons (DE-D), a national leader in the science policy conversation.

Senator Christopher Coons, one of the few members of Congress with a chemistry degree, is a strong proponent of research funding and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education initiatives. In 2012, he received the American Chemical Society Award for Public Service. Senator Coons introduced the Job Creation through Innovation Act, which proposed that the research and development tax credit be made permanent, and the ACS's "International Year of Chemistry" Senate resolution, working with ACS to gather bipartisan co-sponsors. He has been a significant sponsor of the ACS Science & the Congress briefings. Senator Coons will address a joint meeting of MIT Club of the Delaware Valley and Delaware Section of the American Chemical Society to discuss research funding, STEM education, and related topics.

About United States Senator Christopher Coons

In his first year as a United States Senator, Chris Coons worked hard and has earned a reputation as a principled, pragmatic legislator eager to find bipartisan solutions to the issues confronting Delaware and the nation. He has emerged as a strong voice for job creation and the innovation economy, responsible deficit reduction, progressive social justice, and forward-looking foreign policy.

Serving on the Foreign Relations, Judiciary, Energy & Natural Resources, and Budget committees, Senator Coons is uniquely positioned to nurture American innovation and make the United States more competitive in the global market. He is the only freshman to serve as a subcommittee chair, leading the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs and emerging as an important voice on the security challenges and economic opportunities offered by the continent.

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ChemVets Meeting

“Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Flooding”

By Dr. Chad Tolman



Date:	January 21, 2014
Time:	12 p.m. –2 p.m.
Location:	DuPont, Chestnut Run Laboratories 12:00 Lunch (Admin. Bldg.) 1:00 Lecture (Bldg. 713 auditorium)
Event Type:	Open to the Public
Fee:	None
Registration:	Not Required

Abstract:

This talk will explore our society’s energy sources, what concentrations of carbon dioxide have been in the past and what they may be in the future, and the science of global climate change – including the effect of greenhouse gases on the energy balance between incoming (mostly visible) radiation from the sun and outgoing (infrared) radiation from the earth into space. Adding energy in the land/ocean/ice/atmosphere system is raising global average temperatures, causing thermal expansion of seawater, adding to ocean volume (by melting and flow of ice on land), and increasing evaporation, precipitation, and the intensity of storms.

We will look at paleoclimate data to see how rapidly sea levels have risen in the past and the relationship between sea level and global average temperature at equilibrium to see what might be in store for the Mid-Atlantic states in terms of inundation by sea level rise and more intense storms, with Hurricane Sandy as a recent example. Finally I will suggest what individuals can do to reduce the growing risk, and provide information sources for those who want to learn more.

Biography:

Chad received his BS in chemistry at MIT and his PhD in physical chemistry at UC Berkeley. He went to Wilmington in 1965 to work for DuPont Central Research. After retiring as a Research Fellow in 1996, he taught for a year at Del Tech and the University of Delaware, including a graduate course in environmental chemistry. He worked for three years in Washington as a Program Officer for the National Science Foundation in the Chemistry Division, and two years for the National Academy of Science in the Division of Earth and Life Sciences. His work there included studies on air pollution and air quality management.

For more information about this event, please contact Bruce Frye, 2014 ChemVets Chair, at bfrye6@yahoo.com.



Happy New Year

Al Denio

Thank You –

The Delaware Section enjoyed another good year, thanks to Tiffany, Andi, Rakesh, Julie, Mary Jo, Todd, Allison, Jeff, John, Martha, Maggie, Norm and Nora. I appreciate all the time and energy that they put forth to make things happen.

The Ulyot Lecture –

This annual event was held at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia on November 21. Bruce Frye drove up from Bethany Beach, stopping in Newark to give me a ride.

The lecture was given by Joe Palca, a science correspondent for National Public Radio and a guest host for Talk of the Nation Science Friday. Our Section Chair, Tiffany Hoerter, presented the Philadelphia Bowl to Dr. Palca after his amusing talk.

Other Delaware chemists in attendance were Tiffany's husband Justin, Rolf Dessauer and his wife Angela plus Ernest Wysong. I had hoped to see more from Delaware at this nice event.

DuPont's Jackson Lab –

This fabled research lab at Chambers Works was noted for many discoveries over the years. Teflon was discovered there along with several other great products. Sadly this lab has been torn down to save on the tax bill.

Dessauer and Wysong are considering a Jackson Lab Alumni Group to help share and collect information of a historical nature. Perhaps this will lead to a Happy Hour or some other gathering. Maybe oral histories could be recorded? Stay tuned!

Delaware Academy of Chemical Sciences – We shall again take part in Hagley's "Invention Convention," which will be held January 18, 19 & 20. Mike Stemmiski will again put on his Chem Demo Show (several performances) on January 20. We shall also have a booth in the Hagley Library to promote chemistry for students.

At present our Board of Directors has one opening. We are looking for a chemist who wants to be involved in public outreach activities. If you are interested, please send me a brief résumé and bio (alvaldenio@verizon.net).

Scary Stuff –

The N.Y. Times had an article in the November 29 issue with the title "South Carolina Threatens Washington Over Cleanup" by Matthew L. Wald. This is all about the legacy of the cold war and the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Both South Carolina, home of the Savannah River Site, and Washington state, home of the Hanford Nuclear Site, are frustrated by long delays in the federal cleanup process. Now the cleanup timetable is slowed by the Congressional mandated sequestration process and a 2011 cap on military spending.

This article was pretty depressing! The N.Y. Times should provide free Prozac when they print this stuff. And be very glad you do not live in South Carolina or Washington! However as a U.S. government taxpayer we are all going to pay the bill to care for this radioactive chemical stew.

Some of you know Randy Guschl, a former Dupont chemist at the Savannah River Site. He assures me that he is NOT responsible for this problem. However, he too gets to help pay the bill.

Looking Ahead –

I trust that you have a game plan for 2014. Perhaps you plan to start a family, buy a home, win a promotion or even a Nobel? Or maybe this is the year to retire, relax and kick back? If you have not been "active" in ACS, why not join the fun?

I wish you luck whatever your plans and hope you thrive and prosper. And please plan to examine the candidates and vote in November. Thank you!

Delaware Section ACS

2013 December Section Meeting

On December 12, 2013, the Delaware Section of the American Chemical Society hosted its annual Awards Banquet. The event included the presentation of section awards and a lecture by Dr. Pat Confalone, Vice President of Global R&D (Ret.), DuPont Crop Protection and Member of the ACS Board of Directors.

The Delaware Section Award was presented to Dr. Charles G. Riordan, the Vice Provost of Research and Chemistry Professor at the University of Delaware. Dr. Riordan received his PhD in chemistry at Texas A&M. He began his career at University of Kansas where he received tenure prior to moving to the University of Delaware in 1997. His research focuses on frontier synthetic and mechanistic problems in bioinorganic and coordination chemistry that may be probed through chemical synthesis, reactivity and kinetic studies.

The Tillmanns-Skolnik Award was presented to Al Denio for his outstanding service to the Delaware ACS local section. Dr. Denio received his PhD from University of New Hampshire. After working in DuPont's Pioneering Research Laboratory, he became a professor at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Upon retirement in 1996, Dr. Denio continued to teach as a visiting professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Delaware. His service to the Delaware section includes many terms as director and councilor. Dr. Denio continues to serve ACS at the National level on the Senior Chemists Committee.

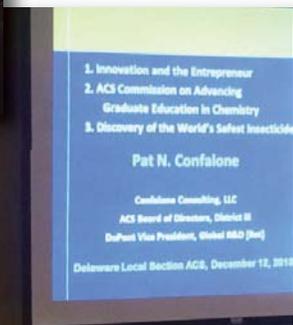
The Harry W. Blunt Scholarship, a cash award of \$750, was presented to Stephen Krasucki, a student at Delaware Technical Community College. The Blunt Scholarship is given in memory of the former Chair of the Delaware Section following his death in an automobile accident in 1987. After graduating from a vocational high school, Harry went on to obtain his doctorate in chemistry. He was a project leader at Hercules at the time of his death. The endowed scholarship is given to a student who demonstrates scholarship and need, in keeping with Harry's belief in bettering oneself through education.

The High School Teacher of the Year award was presented to John C. Scali of Concord High School in Wilmington. Dr. Scali received PhD in chemistry from the University of Delaware in 2011. The award consists of a cash prize of \$250 and the opportunity to compete for the regional teaching award.

The top undergrad student at the University of Delaware, Douglas Kenny was awarded a year's membership in the American Chemical Society and a subscription to an ACS journal of his choice.

The speaker for the event, Dr. Pat Confalone, presented a lecture on Invention, Innovation and the Entrepreneur. Highlights of the talk included a historical perspective of inventors and innovators and translation to entrepreneurship over the last 150 years, a discussion of the ACS Entrepreneurial Resources Center as a tool for would be entrepreneurs and an example of the DuPont innovation Rynaxypyr.

Pictures continued on page 11



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SCIENCE ON TAP

- Date:** January 13, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: National Mechanics
22 S. Third Street Philadelphia, PA 19106
Event Type: Open to the Public
Fee: Free
Registration: Not Required

Science on Tap is a monthly science café in Philadelphia for anyone interested in getting together with other people to discuss a range of engaging science topics. It is held the second Monday of (most) every month. Located at National Mechanics, a relaxed, convivial bar in Old City, Science on Tap features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation. The goal is to promote enthusiasm for science in a fun, spirited, and accessible way, while also meeting new people. Come join the conversation!

Topic: Check <http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/public-events/2014-01-13-sot.aspx>

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Call for Nominations for Section Officers and Councilors

The Delaware Section of the American Chemical society is looking for candidates for local section officers to run in the May 2014 elections. The terms would begin January 2015. If you or someone you know is interested in running for the following positions, please contact Rakesh Nambiar at 302-695-2760 or by email at rakeshgatech@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of materials is March 1, 2014. The positions that are open include:

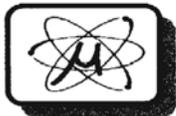
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Director.....	3 year term
Secretary.....	1 year term
Treasurer.....	2 year term
Councilor.....	3 year term
Alternate Councilor.....	3 year term

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CHAIR'S COLUMN *continued from page 3*

Please check the announcement section for more information. I am already excited to begin the year with such nice talks and events.

You are always welcome to provide feedback to any of the executive committee members throughout the year. Our contact information is available in this issue and online at <http://www.delawareacs.org/>

I look forward to serving you this year.

RAKESH NAMBIAR

Memorian *continued from page 4*

He was also active in the anti-war and environmental movements. Burmeister remembers, "Wally was an avid supporter of the effort to bring back the American chestnut tree, and he had a passion for the environment, commuting by bicycle throughout his career, powering his home via solar cells and building an electric car (80 percent completed)." Dr. McCurdy enjoyed singing, sailing, gardening and local Newark History. He is survived by his wife Nancy, three children, seven grandchildren, and a brother. Dr. Silver writes, "Dr. McCurdy was one of the most upbeat people I have ever met. He was one of the good ones." Doug Albertson vividly recalls Sunday mornings working in a graduate research lab down the hall from Dr. McCurdy's office and hearing him singing hymns from his desk. Memorial donations may be made to the Newark Day Nursery Scholarship Fund, 921 Barksdale Rd., Newark, DE 19711. A service was held on November 26.

Coons *continued from page 7*

Committed to fulfilling the economic potential of American innovation, Senator Coons has introduced legislation and worked aggressively for a series of measures designed to help create jobs and grow our economy, including a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's patent system, new protections for American intellectual property, and critical investments in research and development. His first bill in the Senate, the Job Creation Through Innovation Act, would help revitalize domestic manufacturing and create conditions to help businesses grow and create middle-class jobs. Chris later teamed up with Republican Senator Marco Rubio of Florida to introduce the American Growth, Recovery, Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Act, a bill containing an array of job-creating measures supported by both parties.

Chris is a graduate of Amherst College with a B.A. in Chemistry and Political Science, and earned his law degree from Yale Law School and a Master's in Ethics from Yale Divinity School. Chris also studied at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. A longtime New Castle County resident, Chris grew up in the Pike Creek and Hockessin areas and lives in Wilmington with his wife, Annie, and their three children, Michael, Jack, and Maggie.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2014

- 01 Deadline for submission for February Del-Chem Bulletin
09 Chemical Heritage Foundation Priestly Society Luncheon
“Private Equity and the Chemical Industry: Trends, Challenges,
and Opportunities” – Chris Pappas
13 Science on Tap
National Mechanics
17 Lunch with United States Senator Christopher Coons
Dupont Country Club
21 Chem Vets Meeting
“Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Flooding” – Dr. Chad
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