The Blue Ridge Chemist

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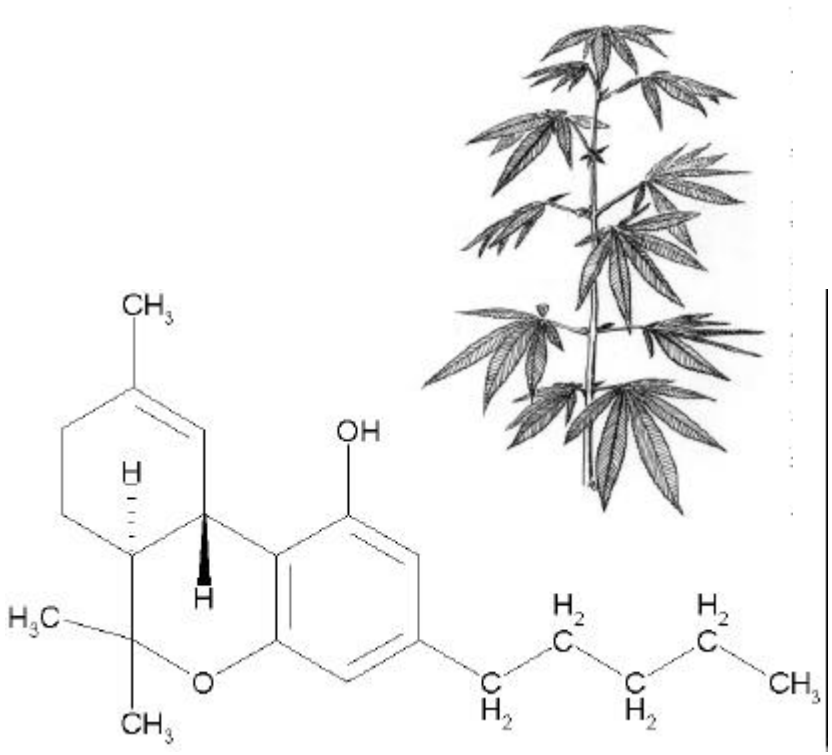

Ferrum College Hosts November Meeting

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VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

588th SECTION MEETING

Hosted by Ferrum College

Monday, November 8, 2004

PROGRAM:

5:30-6:30 Social Time, Magnolia Room, Franklin Hall
6:30-7:30 Dinner, Magnolia Room, Franklin Hall
7:30-8:30 Talk, Room 106 Garber Hall

The social time, and dinner will take place in the Magnolia Room of Franklin Hall at Ferrum College. The talk will be in room 106 of Garber Hall. Joe Vinson will be speaking on "The Chemistry of Marijuana in Humans".

Dinner will be a garden salad with ranch or thousand island dressing, baked salmon with cilantro sauce, roasted chicken, wild rice pilaf, carrot and bean medley, chef's chocolate dessert, yeast rolls with butter, coffee, tea, and water. A vegetarian option is available, if requested when the reservation is made. Cost for the dinner is $12.00, with students and retired ACS members half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, ONE WEEK before the meeting, by calling Jason Powell at (540) 365-4376 or e-mailing to jpowell@ferrum.edu or writing to Life Sciences, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA 24088.

The Chemistry of Marijuana in Humans

Marijuana is smoked, eaten, or drunk by more than 200 million people all over the world. Yet, it remains one of the least understood drugs. In this presentation, we will attempt to provide some insights into the chemistry of marijuana. As a background to begin our discussion, we will review the history of marijuana, which is thousands of years old. Next, we will look at the chemical composition of the *cannabis* plant, the pharmacology of marijuana in humans and the physiological effects of marijuana. A brief review of the analysis of marijuana in physiological fluids will then be presented. The recent advances in the use of marijuana in medicine will conclude the presentation

Dr. Joe Vinson, University of Scranton

Dr. Joe Vinson was born in Arkansas and grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. He attended college at the University of California at Berkley, where he received his B.S. in chemistry in 1963. He received a M.S. degree (in physical organic chemistry) at Iowa State University in 1966. He received a research assistantship at the Ames Lab of the Atomic Energy Commission at Iowa State and received a Ph.D. in organic and analytical chemistry in 1967 under the direction of Dr. James Fritz. After several teaching positions in Pennsylvania and a two-year stint in industry at J. T. Baker Chemical Company, he returned to academe and is now a professor of chemistry at the University of Scranton in Northeastern Pennsylvania. His research interests are wide-ranging and include drug analysis in physiological fluids and the effect of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants on nutrition and health.

Ballot, Blue Ridge Section, ACS, 2004

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of nominees for the election at the November meeting. All have agreed to serve if elected. Other nominees will be accepted from the floor at that meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, please check with that person about his or her willingness to serve.

Chair	_____	Elizabeth Cox, Washington and Lee University
	_____	_____
Chair-elect	_____	Adele Addington, Roanoke College
	_____	_____
Secretary	____	Dana B. Jacobs, Bacon-Jacobs Consulting
	_____	_____
Treasurer	_____	Vernon Miller, Roanoke College
	_____	_____
Councilor	_____	Ben Huddle, Roanoke College
	_____	_____
Alternate-councilor	_____	Warren Pendergast, retired
	_____	_____

Please bring your ballot to the November meeting, or mail it to Jason Powell at Life Sciences, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA 24088.

REVISION OF ACS GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE CHEMISTRY PROGRAMS

Maintaining high standards of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education is an important part of the mission of the American Chemical Society, and the Committee on Professional Training (CPT) plays a major role in this effort. Most chemists are aware of CPT because it develops and administers the ACS approval program for undergraduate chemistry programs.

The guidelines for ACS approval are regularly reviewed by CPT to ensure that they reflect the current state of chemistry and of education. Chemistry is a rapidly evolving science, particularly in interdisciplinary areas. Major changes have also been taking place in the delivery of undergraduate education, with increasing emphasis on applications, active learning, and group experiences.

Although the most recent edition of the guidelines was released in 2003, CPT is already considering possible major revisions for the next edition. As part of this process, it is essential to obtain broad input from the chemistry community regarding the undergraduate chemistry curriculum.

CPT invites the chemistry community to comment on new directions for the next edition of the guidelines for ACS approval of undergraduate chemistry programs. In particular, CPT seeks responses to the following questions:

* What should an ACS-certified chemistry graduate know and be able to do?

* Are there any major impediments for an undergraduate student pursuing an ACS-certified chemistry degree?

* How should a chemistry curriculum balance the breadth of required core courses with the flexibility of elective advanced courses?

* What ancillary skills should be required of ACS-certified chemistry graduates?

* What should be the relative roles of traditional chemical disciplines (e.g., analytical, inorganic, organic, physical) and more recently developed interdisciplinary areas (e.g., biochemistry, environmental science, green chemistry, material science) in chemistry education?

* Given increasing public demand for program assessment and improvement, should approved departments be required to regularly assess the effectiveness of their curriculum and use the results to continually improve their program?

* What is the value of ACS approval to your program and of an ACS-certified chemistry degree to your graduates?

Please send your views on these issues, or on any other issue relating to the guidelines for ACS approval, to CPT by email at cpt@acs.org with a subject of Guidelines Revision.

COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY WEBSITE

The ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) provides advice and counsel on the handling of chemicals, and seeks to ensure safe facilities, designs, and operations by calling attention to potential hazards and stimulating education in safe chemical practices. CCS has developed publications such as Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories, Safety Audit/Inspection Manual, and Safety in the Elementary (K-6) Science Classroom. For more information, including on-line publications and resources, visit the CCS website at: http://chemistry.org/committees/ccs

Directions to the Ferrum College

Directions to Ferrum College from Roanoke: Take Interstate 581 South which turns into Route 220 South. Stay on Route 220 through Boones Mill to Rocky Mount. Take the second Rocky Mount exit to Route 40 West. Ferrum is 10 miles beyond Rocky Mount on Route 40 West. Pass Ferrum Mountain Road (Route 602) on your right, then take the next right into the college's main entrance. You will pass Garber Hall (with the greenhouse) on the right, then Stanley Library. Suggested parking is in the lot below Franklin Hall off of Wiley Drive across from Fitness Center and tennis courts or in the lot just before Stanley Library.

Map of Ferrum College

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Salem, VA 24153
Permit No. 31

THE BLUE RIDGE CHEMIST
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The January Virginia Blue Ridge Section meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20 at Hollins University. The speaker will be Brian Tissue speaking on "Peer Review, Ethics in Science, and How Science Really Works". The contact person is Dan Derringer.