



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and fifty first meeting of the Susquehanna Valley Section of the American Chemical Society will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 (which is the THIRD Wednesday in March) in Room 324 in the Natural Sciences Center on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will be preceded by a dinner at BJ's at 5:30pm. The speaker will be Dr. Nicholas Piro of Albright College in Reading, PA.

“Guanidine Coordination Complexes as Catalysts and Reagents for Group Transfer Reactions”

Dr. Nicholas A. Piro
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Albright College
Reading, PA

Base metals, or the abundant and inexpensive transition metals such as cobalt, copper, and nickel, are prime candidates for use in catalysts that can transform hydrocarbons and other small molecules into value-added products. The relative abundance of these metals means that their mining and extraction is typically greener than that of conventional choices of precious metals such as palladium, rhodium, and iridium. The challenges to using these metals comes from being able to control and direct their reactivity. This talk will focus on the design and synthesis of organic guanidine ligands to hold base metal ions and to direct their reactivity toward classically unreactive substrates while avoiding unwanted side-reactions. In particular we seek to understand the pathways by which reactions such as O-atom and nitrene transfer occur in order to allow for better design opportunities to be realized.

Nicholas A. Piro is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Albright College in Reading, PA. In collaboration with undergraduates at Albright College, Dr. Piro is studying the coordination chemistry of guanidine based ligands with first-row transition metals, e.g. iron, cobalt and copper, and the ability of these complexes to catalyze difficult reactions of organic molecules. He is also interested in the design of bimetallic complexes to carry out important transformations of small molecules, such as the reduction of carbon dioxide to useful products. Dr. Piro earned his PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying the chemistry of phosphorus and niobium, and followed up his training with a Miller Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. He then moved to Pennsylvania to research f-block chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to arriving at Albright College in 2016, Dr. Piro taught and managed the Small-Molecule X-ray Diffraction Lab at Villanova University.

DINNER:

The lecture will be preceded by dinner at 5:30 PM at BJ's Steak and Rib House located at 17 North Market Street, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. RSVP to Bill Dougherty at doughertyw@susqu.edu or 570-372-4255 by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, March 18, 2019. Dinner will be ordered from the menu. Menu and directions to BJ's can be found at bjsmstreet.com.

DIRECTIONS TO SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY:

Address: 560 University Avenue, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

From Route I-80 West:

Take the Danville exit, 224. Take route 54 east to Route 11 south towards Selinsgrove. Continue left on Route 11/15 south (continue as directed below from Route 11/15).

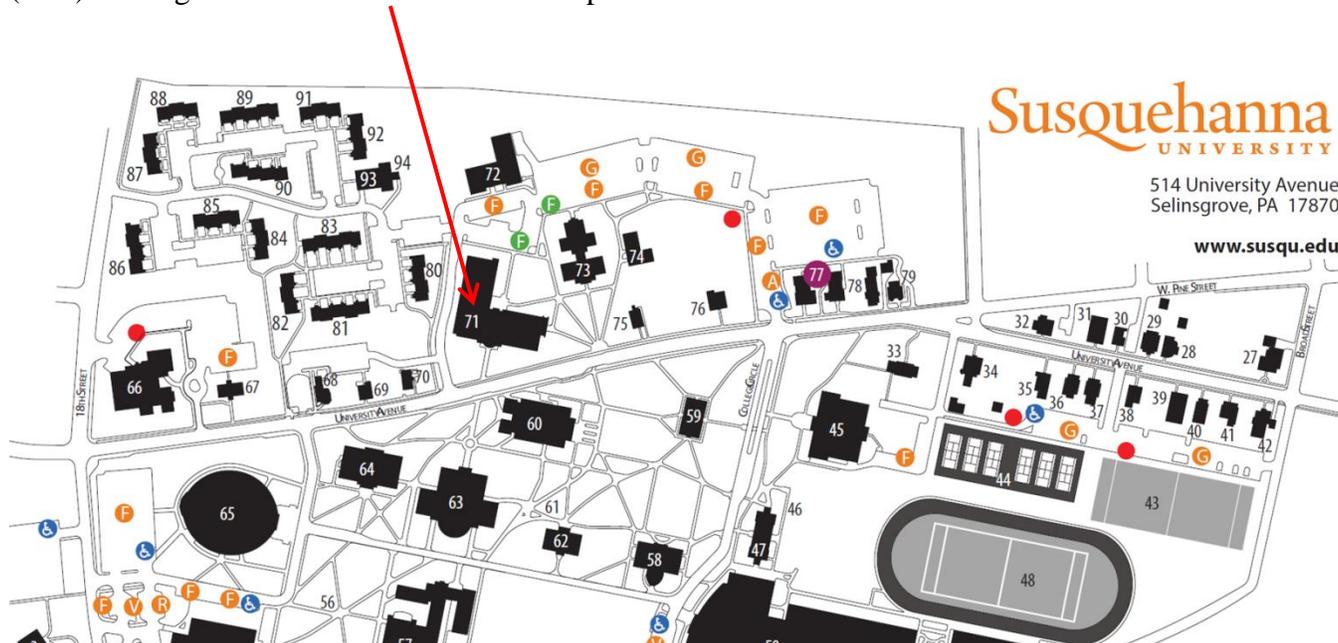
From Route I-80 East:

Take the Lewisburg exit, 210A. Take Route 15 south towards Selinsgrove. Turn right onto Route 11/15 south (continue as directed below from Route 11/15).

From Route 11/15:

Follow Route 11/15 south until it becomes Market Street. Turn right onto W. Pine Street. West Pine Street becomes University Avenue. Follow the campus map to visitor parking.

A full campus map can be found at [Susquehanna University Campus Map](#). The Natural Sciences Center (# 71) is designated with the arrow on the map below:



DIRECTIONS TO BJ'S:

Address: 17 N Market St, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Restaurant is on the left on Market St just before Pine St. There is parking behind the restaurant.

SECTION NEWS:

2019 SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SECTION CHEMISTRY HIGH SCHOOL EXAM:

The annual exams, hosted by the Susquehanna Valley Section of the ACS, will be held Saturday, April 6. Students from across the section are nominated by their teachers to take this exam. Students with high scores in our different districts receive a David H. Frederick Memorial Award in High School Chemistry at our Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 1 at the [Pine Barn Inn](#) in Danville, PA. See the [website](#) for details.

2018 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD:



U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Chemistry Olympiad Qualifying Exams will be administered to participating Juniors and Seniors by their Chemistry teachers between March 4th and 8th. Upon passing the Qualifying Exam, the participating student becomes eligible to take the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam, which will be administered on Saturday April 27th at Bucknell University. If you have a student who is interested in participating, please contact Patrick Martino (patrick.martino@bucknell.edu). For more details see the [local website](#) and [national website](#).

THE 2019 MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE:

The 95th annual PAS meeting will be held on March 29-31 at Cedar Crest College. There will be oral and poster sessions broadly encompassing all fields of science, as well as student presentation awards, graduate school and career panels, and a parallel symposium exploring the importance of communicating science to the public. The Keynote Speaker will be Lorraine Soisson, Ph. D., of the USAID Malaria Vaccine Development Program. Register at the website: pennsci.org/annual-meeting-registration



LOCAL STEM COMPETITIONS:

A list of all STEM competitions for high school students is posted on our [website](#). If you have any questions about the contests or have suggestions for others, please contact either the person indicated on the site or the section webmaster, Ron Supkowski at ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu or 570-208-5900 x5733



JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE:

Sunday, March 10th, is the opening day of the current season at the Joseph Priestley House in Northumberland. The visitor center is open from 1 - 4 PM and will feature costumed guides and live chemistry shows. For more information, call the house at 570-473-9474 or go to: www.josephpriestleyhouse.org/event/commonwealth-charter-day-and-priestleys-birthday/

MARM2019:



The 47th Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) will be held May 30-June 1, 2019. The meeting is hosted by the Maryland Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Check their website, marm2019.org, for more information.

Also, consider nominating someone for the following awards see marm2019.org/awards for details:

- **The ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Middle Atlantic Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching**
- **E. Emmet Reid Award in Chemistry Teaching at Small Colleges in the ACS Mid-Atlantic Region**
- **Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Region Award**
- **E. Ann Nalley Middle Atlantic Region Award for Service for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society**

CERM 2019:



The 50th Central Regional Meeting (CERM) will be held June 4 - 8, 2019. The meeting is hosted by the Midland Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Check their website, acscerm2019.org, for more information.

NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

ACS LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK:

Legislation that may impact the chemical enterprise comes before Congress on a regular basis, and the ACS is committed to keeping its members informed and encouraging them to weigh in on high-priority issues. To see the position of the ACS on many legislative issues visit the ACS LAN website: acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.

To find out how to become more active in ACS advocacy activities, see the website: acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.

To join ACS' grassroots legislative advocacy network, ACT4CHEMISTRY, which will allow you to stay up to date on policy issues and contact legislators on behalf of chemistry and chemists, go to their website, follow the [Act4Chemistry Twitter](#) account, or email advocacy@acs.org.

JOIN THE ACS:

If you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member of the American Chemical Society, please direct them to the membership website: acs.org/content/acs/en/membership-and-networks/acs/join.

NATIONAL MEETINGS:

Registration is now open for the 2019 spring national meeting in Orlando, FL from March 31 – April 4. See the [website](#) for details.

The 2019 fall national meeting will be held in San Diego, CA from August 25 – 29. The call for papers is now open with most divisions having a deadline of Monday, March 18th. See the [website](#) for further details.

Susquehanna Valley Section Web Page: <http://departments.kings.edu/SusquehannaValleyACS>

Please send any comments about the monthly newsletter to Ron Supkowski, Section Secretary
King's College 131 N River St Wilkes-Barre PA 18711 ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu
