IX. “Footballs, tweeting, and more: Tackling controversies with chemistry”

Dr. David Rovnyak, Bucknell University

How much can the pressure of a football change? What is the unexpected chemistry of ice skating? How fast can I really charge my cell phone? Using chemistry, we’ll cut through these and other controversies and consider the unexpected ways that myths and misconceptions survive and are repeated. Along the way, these issues lead to reflection on how social media is driving the evolving perception of the chemical and scientific enterprise. As social media brings unprecedented public engagement with chemistry, the consequences range from greater wonder and understanding to deepening mistrust and confusion. In this evolving landscape, what tools best equip us to be citizen chemists in the evolving digital age?

A native of Charlottesville, VA, David Rovnyak is a Professor of Chemistry at Bucknell University. He obtained his Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and subsequently pursued work on a NIH research fellowship at the Harvard Medical School on protein structure determination technology. Research in his laboratory focuses on applying nuclear magnetic resonance to a variety of problems such as protein structure, guest-host complexation, and the search for metabolomic markers of disease. Other interests include science outreach, promoting undergraduate research, the maker movement and social media, and he can also be found as ‘NMR_guy’ on twitter.

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The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a nonprofit scientific and educational association of professional chemists and chemical engineers. Although the Society is primarily an American organization, virtually every nation is represented among its over 160,000 members.

Some of the many programs sponsored by the ACS are meetings, publications, eduction, awards, and public service activities, including National Chemistry Week. Each year, 1,500 ACS meetings are held each year at the local, regional, national, and divisional levels. Over twenty ACS journals are the leading resources in the chemical field. Educational activities include services to high school and college chemistry students and continuing education programs for its members. The ACS presents numerous awards for outstanding achievement in various fields of chemistry through national, regional, divisional, and local channels. Fellowships and research grants for basic research are administered by the society.

The Susquehanna Valley Section of the ACS includes members from eight counties in central to northeastern Pennsylvania.
PROGRAM

I. Welcome and Introductions ..............Dr. Anne Szklarski

II. 60-Year ACS member ....................Dr. Anne Szklarski
     DR. LARRY SHERMAN
     University of Scranton, Retired

III. Joseph Priestley Service Award ........Dr. Anne Szklarski
     DR. CHRIS HALLEN
     Bloomsburg University

IV. High School Teacher Award ..........Mr. Ronald Blatchley
    MR. ROBERT VALENTE
    Marian Catholic High School

V. National Chemistry Week Award ..........Dr. Anne Szklarski
    GABRIELLE SERRATORE
    Scranton Preparatory School

VI. David H. Frederick Memorial Awards in High School Chemistry
    ................................. Dr. Charles Mahler

EXAM A RUNNERS-UP

JACOB FOULDS
OLIVIA STROBLE
EZEKIEL MILLER
ANNA STEWART
ANGELINA BALESTINO
MOHAMED ELFAYOUMI
STEPHANIE MATLAGA
PAIGE HEPNER
JUSTIN KELLER
MARC MINECHELLO

EXAM A WINNERS

JULIA BORYS
HUNTER CRAWLEY
EMILY MAZUR
JONATHAN ROSS

EDWARD KOLONSKY
ANDREW CLICKARD

EXAM B RUNNERS-UP

ZACK LAGRUE
IAN REISH
LEVI SHANER
KATHRYN BOUND
DANIEL MARCINCZAVAGE
LINDA WEN

EXAM B WINNERS

NICHOLAS DORESKY
COURTNEY DAUB
ANIRBAN CHOWDHURY

VII. Chemistry Olympiad Competitors
    Dr. Deanne Garver

TAYLOR FRISCH
MICHAEL WEIDOW
HENRY HARRISON
WILSON FISHER

VIII. College Award Winners
     Dr. Ernie Trujillo

ERIC THOMPSON
TYLER FULTON
THOMAS M. REIDY
GINA BAIAMONTE
PHILIP H. GILMARTIN
DANIEL BASSLER
BRANDON R. HARRIS

Marian Catholic High School
Teacher – Mr. Robert Valente
Bloomsburg Area High School
Teacher – Mr. Todd Davis

Wyoming Area High School
Teacher – Mr. Gordan Williams
Mifflinburg Area High School
Teacher – Mr. Brian Landis
Hughesville High School
Teacher – Mr. John Tamblin
Old Forge High School
Teacher – Ms. Adrianna Rupprecht
Hanover Area High School
Teacher – Dr. Jocelyn Holodick-Reed
Danville Senior High School
Teacher – Ms. Deborah Slattery

Milton Area High School
Teacher – Ms. Faye Hinson
Milton Area High School
Teacher – Ms. Faye Hinson
MMI Preparatory School
Teacher – Mr. Todd Ronco

Honesdale High School
Teacher – Ms. Michelle Tonkin
Honesdale High School
Teacher – Ms. Michelle Tonkin
Lewisburg High School
Teacher – Ms. Angela Gockley
Lewisburg High School
Teacher – Ms. Angela Gockley

Bloomsburg University
Bucknell University
King’s College
Misericordia University
Scranton University
Susquehanna University
Wilkes University