



*In Conjunction with the American Chemical Society  
Student Affiliates at the University of Pittsburgh*



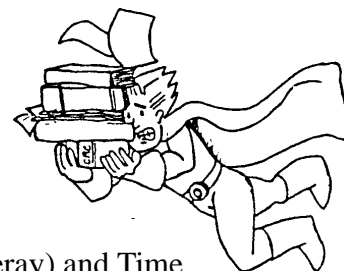
Volume 13, Issue 2

October 3, 2003

# REGISTRATION

## SET DATES:

- October 23:** Registration begins for Spring Term 2004-2 for **Seniors Only**.
- October 26:** Standard Time Begins--Set your clocks **BACK!**
- October 27:** Registration begins for Spring Term 2004-2 for all **other degree seeking** students.
- November 03:** Add/drop begins for Spring Term 2004-2.
- November 10:** Registration for non-degree students.
- November 21:** April 2004 (04-2) graduation applications due in 140 Thackeray Hall.
- November 26-  
November 30:** Thanksgiving Recess. **NO CLASSES!!  
Have a great Holiday!**



## NOT SO SET DATE:

- October 17:** Spring Course Descriptions (140 Thackeray) and Time Schedules (G-3 Thackeray) should be available.

## WHEN SHOULD YOU SEE YOUR ADVISOR?

**Advisees who** already **have a permanent advisor** should make their registration appointments with that advisor on or after October 20. Remember records will not be available before October 16.

**Advisees who** (via a letter to be sent October 6) were asked to select their permanent advisors should do so after October 13. See George Bandik or Regina Mahouski in 234 Chevron Science Center.

**New advisees** (those who have **NOT** registered with the Chemistry Department before) should make an appointment with George (Room 234 Chevron) or Dr. Huston after October 20.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF:** Adam Baker-*Editor*, Gregg Kotchey, Matthew Lockett, Michelle Morgan, Julie Brennan, John Henssler, Justin Chalker, Joan Fletcher, Liz Humston, George Lengyel, Josh Pierce *and* Regina Mahouski

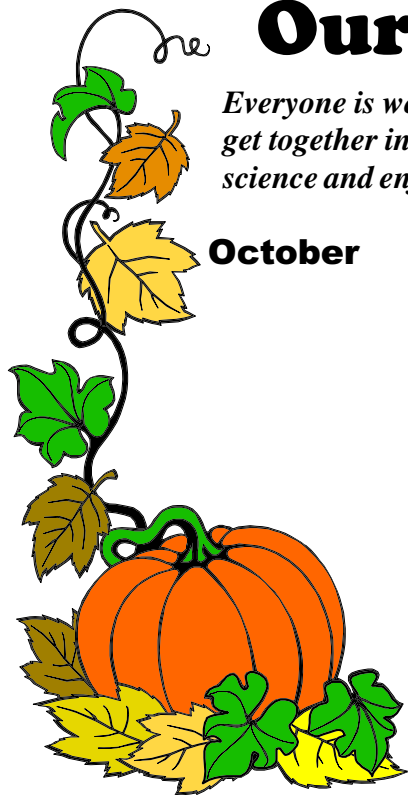
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# Our October Schedule

*Everyone is welcome to attend our weekly ACS-SA meetings. Every Friday at noon we get together in 132 Chevron Science Center to hear interesting talks, learn more about science and enjoy each other's company. Come join us for all of the following meetings.*

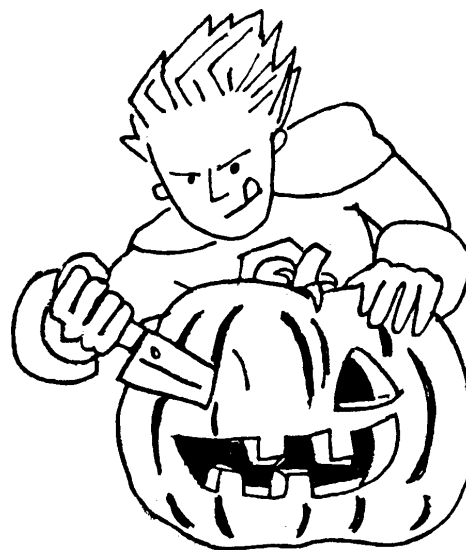
## October

- 03** "How I Got to Medical School" with Lino Miele, past ACS-President here at Pitt.
- 10** "Registration Yet Again" with George
- 17** Preparation for National Chemistry Week Celebration at the Carnegie Science Center with Justin and David.
- 24** Sit back and let the artist in you come out with Pumpkin Painting on the patio.
- 31** Fall Birthday Celebration and Halloween Extravaganza-Come dressed as your favorite superhero.



## Halloween Pumpkin Fest

Come join the fun this October 24th as we drink apple cider and paint pumpkins on the patio in front of Chevron. Bring candles, dress up or do other Fall like things as the mood strikes you. BYOB (bring your own **blankets**...preferably flannel since we have a theme going and all). Come to a meeting or see George with suggestions or for more details. **Also if you have any other useful suggestions e-mail us at [albst101@pitt.edu](mailto:albst101@pitt.edu).**



## Who's This BEN Guy, Anyway??!!

Benzoyl Peroxide the Free Radical Man (affectionately known as Ben) is our ACS-SA mascot. You have probably seen him around the chemistry department and on our yearly ACS-SA T-shirt. From now on when you see Ben, think of the ACS-SA. Why not come to a meeting to learn more about what we are all about. Fridays at Noon in 132 CHVRN.



# NEED HELP????



## The Academic Support Center



311 William Pitt Union

[www.pitt.edu/~asc](http://www.pitt.edu/~asc) • (412) 648-7920

### MONDAYS:

5:00-6:30 PM

**September 22, 2003**  
TIME MANAGEMENT

**September 29, 2003**  
IPSS/MEMORY

**October 6, 2003**  
TEXTBOOK READING

**October 13, 2003**  
LECTURE NOTETAKING

**October 20, 2003**  
TEST TAKING



### TUESDAYS:

6:00-7:30 PM

**October 14, 2003**  
TIME MANAGEMENT

**October 21, 2003**  
IPSS/MEMORY

**October 28, 2003**  
TEXTBOOK READING

**November 4, 2003**  
LECTURE NOTETAKING

**November 11, 2003**  
TEST TAKING

### WEDNESDAYS:

4:00-5:30 PM

**October 15, 2003**  
TIME MANAGEMENT

**October 22, 2003**  
IPSS/MEMORY

**October 29, 2003**  
TEXTBOOK READING

**November 5, 2003**  
LECTURE NOTETAKING

**November 12, 2003**  
TEST TAKING



### THURSDAYS:

2:30-4:00 PM

**September 25, 2003**  
TIME MANAGEMENT

**October 2, 2003**  
IPSS/MEMORY

**October 9, 2003**  
TEXTBOOK READING

**October 16, 2003**  
LECTURE NOTETAKING

**October 23, 2003**  
TEST TAKING



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# CALL 412-648-7920 TO SIGN UP



## A Few Important Reminders:

**Chem 1140**-Preparative Inorganic Chemistry is our advanced inorganic laboratory course offered each Spring Term. **Chem 1130**-Inorganic Chemistry is a pre or co-requisite for this course. If you are working towards an ACS-Certified degree, this course is a degree requirement.

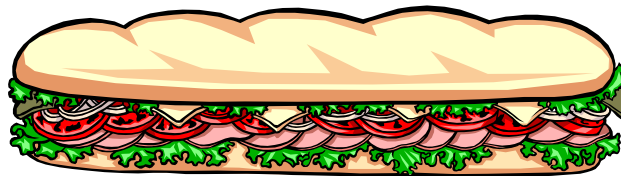
If you have wondered about what goes on the upper floors of our building you might want to consider registering for **Chem 1700**. This one credit seminar course allows two different faculty members each week to speak on their own research interests. Over 70% of our graduating seniors in Chemistry participate in our undergraduate research program and this course is a great way to learn more about your options and your department.

Finally, if you are interested in pursuing an honors degree in Chemistry the requirements students must have are:

- (a) an overall QPA of 3.00 or better
- (b) a chemistry QPA of 3.25 or better
- (c) have completed at least 2 credits of Chem 1710-Undergraduate Research
- (d) completed Chem 1711-Undergraduate Research Writing.

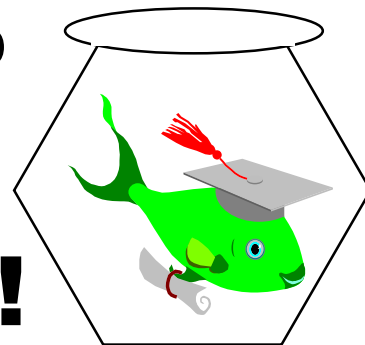
*Good luck as you strive towards academic excellence!*

## Uncle Sam's Hoagies!!



**Remember...**The ACS-SA will be selling hoagies every Tuesday for \$3.50. Our first week was a great success! Please support our ACS-SA.

# STOP AND GAIN!



*The fishbowl is a great place to gain information about internships, job opportunities and other things of interest to science majors. Stop and check the bulletin boards for the latest information. Things are added on a regular basis.*

## COMEDY CORNER....

*Great events in Chemistry...*



1865: Kekulé, moments before his brilliant insight into the structure of benzene.

# School Over the Summer...

## Who Would Have Thought?

by: Liz Humston



Every other summer I intentionally chose a job that didn't relate at all to chemistry. I always thought that if I didn't have a break from "school" I wouldn't be able to come back refreshed and ready for another semester. After spending this past summer doing the REU program at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, I found that not only did I really enjoy doing "school" over the summer, but participating in the REU program also provided me with an opportunity to get involved in a lot of other fun and rewarding activities.

The program itself was a wonderful experience. I worked under Dr. Cynthia Larive in an Analytical Chemistry lab on a project called "Analysis of Ciprofloxacin and its Breakdown Products in Aquatic Ecosystems." We were trying to find some of the effects that pharmaceuticals (ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic) can have when they end up in aquatic ecosystems. I found that the lab I worked in was very "undergraduate friendly." Everyone that I met was happy to have me there and more than willing to offer their help with my research. In addition to learning about this specific project, I learned a lot about how research works and what it will be like at graduate school next year. In the middle of the 10-week program I, along with all the other REU participants, had the opportunity to give a presentation of my work and at the end I participated in a poster presentation. It was a nice environment for us to give our first presentations because it was among people we were familiar and comfortable with, which reduced a lot of the stress, but still gave us a chance to learn about giving presentations.

KU's REU program is one of the longest running programs and is relatively large. There

were 19 people involved in the Chemistry REU and there were many other REU programs that were occurring simultaneously. All the REU participants lived together in campus housing, which, although it was difficult to return to dorm food and sharing showers, provided a really good opportunity to get to know each other well.

I was glad to have an early look at what graduate school will be like because it gave me more reassurance in having made the decision to go. But, I was also glad to meet a lot of new and fun people. We did spend a lot of time at work, but we were still left with plenty of time for fun. I found that everyone bonded very quickly because no one came already having friends. Pretty much everything we did socially was with each other. There were picnics that were sponsored by the program trips to Kansas City, which was about 45 minutes away. We went out to eat together a lot, went to the lake, went to several concerts, went to the gym together, organized soccer and basketball games, checked out some of the local bars and dance clubs and participated in a lot of other fun things.

Participating in the REU program was one of the best "summer jobs" I have had. I learned a lot about chemistry and research and did a lot of work, but it was work that I found interesting and enjoyable. In addition to the fun that I had at work, I also had a good time outside of the lab. I would highly recommend participating in an REU to anyone who is sure they want to go to graduate school or sure that they don't. A lot can be learned from an experience like this, and at the very least you come away with some extra money, a lot of new friends, and a better idea of what doing research at a university is like.

# It's the Great Pumpkin...



On Friday, October 24, 2003 all of our ACS-SA members will be out painting pumpkins on the patio (for more information on this event see the last page of this issue of the Chem Major News) but the tradition of the Jack-O-lantern dates back much farther. Courtesy of the [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com) we bring you the history of the carved pumpkin.

Pumpkin carving is a popular part of modern America's Halloween celebration. Come October, pumpkins can be found everywhere in the country from doorsteps to dinner tables. Despite the widespread carving that goes on in this country every autumn, few Americans really know why or when the jack o'lantern tradition began. Or, for that matter, whether the pumpkin is a fruit or a vegetable. Read on to find out!



People have been making jack o'lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets are used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack o'lanterns.



*Pumpkins are fruits. A pumpkin is a type of squash and is a member of the gourd family (Cucurbitaceae), which also includes squash, cucumbers, gherkins, and melons.*



*Pumpkins have been grown in North America for five thousand years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere.*



*In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons." The name was translated into English as "pompions," which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin."*



*Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.*



*The largest pumpkin ever grown was 1,140 pounds. It was grown by Dave Stelts of Leetonia, Ohio, in 2000.*



*Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in color. Their seeds can be saved to grow new pumpkins the next year.*



*The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was 350 pounds and five feet in diameter.*

## **Can It Be Time to Think About Summer Already?**

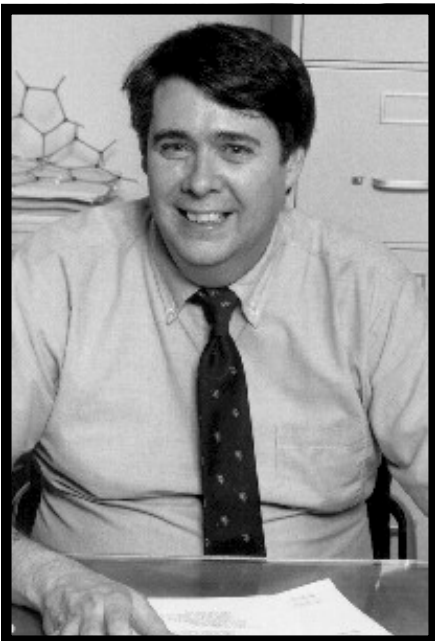
The Bettis Laboratory is looking for candidates in engineering, science, and business disciplines who are seeking opportunity and challenge. We are interested in undergraduate and graduate students majoring in metallurgical, electrical, mechanical, chemical, computer, welding and nuclear engineering. Students majoring in material science, numerical analysis, computer science, chemistry, physics, mathematics, environmental health and business management (accounting, human resources and finance) will also be considered. Employment at the Laboratory will offer students a unique opportunity to participate in the important work that we do for the nation and to work with some of the finest technical people in the country. We plan to have 30 students for the Summer of 2004.

Bettis Laboratory (formerly Westinghouse Bettis), is a research and development facility operated by Bechtel Bettis, Inc. for the Department of Energy. The Laboratory is located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Design, development and operational follow of nuclear reactor power plants for propulsion of naval vessels is the primary focus of the work being conducted. The Laboratory employs approximately 2,060 people, predominately engineers and scientists. All candidates must be U.S. citizens. Applicants selected will be subject to a Federal background investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified matter.

Internship positions are hourly paid positions with flexible beginning and ending dates. Because the work being conducted is of a highly sophisticated nature, the Laboratory is seeking applicants who have a record of high academic achievement. To qualify, candidates must have completed their sophomore year before beginning to work, and have a grade point average of at least 3.20 on a 4.00 scale. For additional information, visit our website at [www.bettis.gov](http://www.bettis.gov).

Interested students need to submit a resume, cover letter and an unofficial copy of their transcript to the Summer Intern Program Coordinator, Bechtel Bettis, Inc., P.O. Box 79, West Mifflin, PA 15122, by November 1, 2003. This information may also be faxed to 412-476-5363 or e-mailed to [interns@bettis.gov](mailto:interns@bettis.gov). Candidates for interviews will be selected and invitations to visit the Laboratory will be issued by mid November 2003. Interviews for the Summer of 2004 program will be conducted during the month of January 2004.

Any questions should be directed to the Chairman of the Summer Intern Committee at 1-800-296-5002 extension 5897, the Co-Chairman of the Summer Intern Committee, extension 5666 or the Program Coordinator at extension 6574.



*Professor Rex Shepherd  
1945-2003*

## *In Remembrance*

***We*** are told that in the book of life each of us can expect to see the opening and closing of many chapters. Even at this stage of 20-something many of us have had numerous changes that have sparked these new chapters, experiences, and outlooks on life. We are well aware, as in any book, that with time, settings change, new characters are introduced, and our role is somehow modified.

***It*** is unfortunate that in this chapter of my life I have to see the passing of a man that was not only respected by the scientific community he worked with but also someone I

*admired greatly. Dr. Rex Shepherd was a man that many undergraduates do not get to meet, if they have the fortune to, until the senior level inorganic class. Those lucky enough to have him in class, as an advisor, or through research interactions know that he was someone who cared greatly for education at all levels. He was thorough in explanations and expected students to use the same thoroughness when answering one of his many questions. He approached many things in life in a less-than optimistic view but was sure to give it his all and in the end was thankful for trying.*

***H***aving only known him for a short time I cannot begin to describe the time he spent helping undergraduates to see how four years of chemistry tie into one unified theme. Or the time and dedication he spent with countless graduate students both in the classroom and in his (and other's) research lab. I do know this however, he was always there to listen and help you think through complicated problems. The truthfulness with which he spoke was sometimes harsh but at the same time heartfelt. This is the reason I admired him most, his honesty is a characteristic hard to find and sometimes hard to swallow. If I take anything from this, now greatly missed, character in this chapter of my life it is that love of job and truthfulness in manner are two characteristics to emulate and cherish. It is with this thought that I express my deepest sympathy for and greatest regret for not knowing Dr. Shepherd much better.

**by:** Matthew Lockett, Co-President  
American Chemical Society-Student Affiliates