



PENN-OHIO BORDER SECTION

NEWSLETTER

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February Meeting

“Chemistry via Astronomy: Building up the Periodic Table”

Dr. Patrick Durrell

Department of Physics
Youngstown State University

Friday, February 26 @ 7:00 pm

Youngstown State University
Ward Beecher Science Hall
Room 6030

Abstract

Many discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics have been made through the direct (and indirect) uses of the varying abundances of chemicals in stars, interstellar gas, and planets. Indeed, using spectroscopy to study elements present in astronomical objects is one of the important tools used by astronomers. The talk will briefly outline how the wide range of natural elements in the periodic table came to be synthesized through a variety of processes in the universe, whether it was through nuclear reactions deep within normal stars or in the death throes of powerful supernovae.

After the talk by Dr. Durrell, come join us for a full dome presentation in YSU's recently refurbished Ward Beecher planetarium entitled "The Powerhouses of the Universe: STARS". This general audience presentation is narrated by Mark Hamill and features stunning 3D animation. We hope to see you there!

Speaker Biography



Patrick Durrell has been an astronomer and assistant professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at YSU since 2004. Prior to this position he was a Research Associate at Penn State University, working with Robin Ciardullo and Steinn Sigurdsson on studies of intracluster stars and planetary nebulae in nearby galaxies and galaxy clusters. He also carries out research on stars and stars clusters in nearby galaxies, in order to understand how galaxies formed and evolved.

Durrell is also interested in astronomy education and he expresses this interest as a professor and by reaching out to the community as the director of Ward Beecher's Planetarium and through other activities such as: telescope observing, demonstrations, public lectures, and planetarium shows for over 20 years.

ACS Leadership Conference – Fort Worth, Texas

Your Chair, Chair-Elect, and Councilor, (Mike Serra, Tim Sherwood, Doris Zimmerman) attended the 2010 ACS Leadership Institute at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas from January 22-24, 2010. The ACS continually keeps us very busy with meetings. Our plane rides down and back were uneventful, except for TSA and Doris' new knees. We were requested to take the "You and the ACS" free web course prior to arrival. This course gives you all the information about the ACS, as if you did not know, but we all learn something new, sometimes. I would suggest that each member take this course; it is free and only takes about one hour if you do it all.

Friday afternoon started with a lecture by the Chairman of the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC). This is the committee that is in charge of local section awards, grants, and, of course, the annual reports. We were then allowed to network with neighboring sections, as Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Akron, Erie, Northeastern Ohio, and Toledo. As a group, we are thinking of a combined event for 2011 International Year of Chemistry. After dinner, Madeleine Jacobs, ACS CEO and Executive Director and Joe Francisco, ACS President spoke. The evening programs were on the new Online Speaker Directory and its use and Succession Planning. There was a reception until 10 pm. The food was great, just a little too Texan (southwest) for me. Saturday, we attended two leadership courses - Engaging and Motivating Volunteers and Strategic Planning. All three of us chose the same courses at different times.

Before dinner, there was an ACS Resource Fair/Reception, with booths for almost any department of ACS. Again, the food was great. Sunday we were given information on the International Year of Chemistry and the Annual Report on Solar. Closing Keynotes were given by Jan Hayes and Amber Hinkle, Leadership Advisory Board Co-Chairs, Tom Lane, ACS Immediate Past President (I am proud to be a chemist), Nancy Jackson, ACS President-Elect, and Bonnie Charpentier, Chair, ACS Board of Directors. We caught the noon shuttle to the airport to come home with the chair-elect of the Pittsburgh Section, who, by request, was my roommate for the weekend.

Respectfully submitted, Doris Zimmerman, Councilor POBS

Excerpts from “Chemists at Heart – Valentine 2010”

-By Samuel Toba

♥ I was asked to tutor a nursing student in chemistry. That nursing student became my wife 46 years ago. “Better living through chemistry”. - **Wendell Wilkerson**

♥ Being “red-green” colorblind I had a hard time seeing the color change using phenolphthalein when titrating acids or bases while taking Analytical Chemistry at Upper Iowa University in 1962-63. Fortunately my girlfriend, Deanna, was willing to come to the lab and help me see the color change from pink to colorless and vice versa. We wore white lab coats in those days but yellow was my favorite so I had my mother dye mine for me. Deanna and her friend Nancy, who was a Chemistry Major, decided it would be great fun to dye my coat from yellow to pink. They thought I would never notice the difference but even colorblind guys can distinguish pink from yellow. It was almost the end of our romance. However, I was smart enough to marry Deanna after she graduated in June 1966. Over the years the story has been told many times but we are still in love and now retired. – **Doug Fay**

♥ My husband Jeff and I met in our sophomore year at the University of Akron. We were in Dr. Stephen Darling’s Organic Chemistry II class together at 8AM. One day I was helping a fellow student in the hallway with a problem and Jeff walked by and said, “You would be a great teacher.” Well, being the stout feminist at the time, I said, “Why? Because I am a woman?” His reply was, “No. Because you are so patient and care whether they understand.” I do not know how he knew, but after 15 years of being a chemistry professor, (and loving every minute of it) his statement at the time was quite prophetic. After the comment in the hallway, I started noticing him in class when he would accept Dr. Darling’s “double or nothing” quiz challenges. If you completed your quiz within 10 minutes, and it was completely correct you would get double the points, if there was a mistake, you would get a zero. I do not remember a time when he got the zero. Needless to say, Jeff was sought after as a study group partner. I went to one of these study groups and brought home a steady boyfriend and eventually a husband. We went back to Akron to get married and took pictures on the University of Akron campus (even the chemistry building). Being a Zip will always hold good memories for both us. If it were not for organic chemistry we would not have our wonderful son, Erik. - **Melissa Barranger Mathys**

More excerpts from “Chemists at Heart – Valentine 2010” can be found at: <http://boilthisdown.org/?p=1518>

42nd Central Regional Meeting of the ACS **CHEMISTRY: REACTING TO PROVIDE NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

June 16-19, Dayton Convention Center and Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Historic Downtown Dayton, Ohio!

Visit: www.cermacs2010.org for more information

and to submit your abstract!

POBS Tentative Schedule for 2009

February 26 – Youngstown State University – Ward Beecher Science Hall Rm 6030, 7 pm
“Chemistry via Astronomy: Building up the Periodic Table”
- Pat Durrell, YSU Physics Dept.

March 21-25 – San Francisco, CA – ACS Spring National Meeting

April 23 – Westminster College –Poster Session, Dinner, & Awards Banquet (Time: TBA)
“Westinghouse’s Role in the Nuclear Renaissance”
- Brian R. Beebe, Director of Core Engineering, Westinghouse Co.

June 16-19 – Dayton, OH CERMACS

August 22-26 – Boston, MA – ACS Fall National Meeting

Sept. 24 – POBS 60th Anniversary Dinner, Overture Restaurant, Youngstown, Jeff Crystal, chef
Speaker - Dr. William Carroll, topic to be determined
- Presentation of Volunteer Awards to past chairs from 1990-2010

Directions to YSU

From the northwest (Cleveland, Toledo): Take Ohio Turnpike to Exit 218. Follow I-80 East to I-680, Youngstown. Take Exit 4A, Route 422 East and proceed to the Wick Avenue exit. Turn right onto Wick Avenue. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the first light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.

From the north (Ashtabula): Take Route 11 South to I-80 West. Take Route 711 South (exits left). Exit at Gypsy Lane and make a left onto Gypsy. Cross Belmont Ave. (Rt. 193); at the fourth traffic light after Belmont, turn right onto Fifth Ave. Drive down Fifth until you get to Rt. 422 (look for the YSU stadium), then cross the overpass and turn left onto the Eastbound Service Road, staying on the service road as you pass the stadium. Cross the Elm Street intersection, then turn right onto Wick. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the first light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.

From the east (western Pennsylvania): Take I-80 to Route 711 South (Exits left). Exit at Gypsy Lane and make a left onto Gypsy. Cross Belmont Ave. (Rt. 193); at the fourth traffic light after Belmont, turn right onto Fifth Ave. Drive down Fifth until you get to Rt. 422 (look for the YSU stadium), then cross the overpass and turn left onto the Eastbound Service Road, staying on the service road as you pass the stadium. Cross the Elm Street intersection, then turn right onto Wick. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the first light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.

From the southeast (Pittsburgh): Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 234 (16A) on the Ohio Turnpike. From there, take I-680 approximately 10 miles to Exit 6 (Route 62 and Hubbard). Follow signs for YSU and take Route 422 West. Take the first Exit (Wick Avenue) and turn left on Wick. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the second light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.

From the south: Take Ohio Route 11 North to I-680. From I-680, take Exit 4A, Route 422 East. Exit the freeway at Wick Avenue and turn right on Wick. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the third light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.

From the west (Akron): Take I-71 or I-77 to I-76 East. Where I-80 and I-76 divide, follow I-80 until it intersects with I-680 to Youngstown. Follow I-680 to Exit 4A, Route 422 East. Exit the 422 freeway at Wick Avenue and turn right. To park in the deck (you must pay), make a left into the large parking deck after the first light on Wick. Street parking on Lincoln Avenue (make a right at the second light) is available after 5:30 PM.