



# PENN-OHIO BORDER SECTION NEWSLETTER

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## September Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

Thiel College  
Science Building S-100

Speaker:

Douglas E. Rohde, MS  
Lake County Crime Laboratory

### “The Cleveland Cyanide Murder Case: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Crime Investigation.”

On February 24, 2005, a married, 38 year old mother of two, driving to meet her sister at a movie theater, called a friend to inform her she was feeling nauseous. The female said that she had taken a calcium pill that her husband, a Cuyahoga County physician, gave her just before she left their house. Shortly after completing her call, she was involved in a low speed automobile accident and was rushed to a local hospital.

At the hospital, the female exhibited shallow breathing, an erratic heartbeat, and was unresponsive; however, she had no major signs of trauma. After 30 to 40 minutes of attempting to revive her, the attending physician saw no signs of improvement and pronounced her dead. At the time of autopsy, there was no indication of external injury, and an internal examination showed no evidence of trauma. As a result, the coroner was unable to determine cause of death and awaited toxicology results. Routine toxicology testing, which included volatile, OTC, prescription and illicit drug screens, did not reveal any unusual substances in the decedent's system.

On March 17, 2005, the husband voluntarily met with the investigating detective and provided a statement concerning his wife's death. In the course of the interview, the husband stated that his wife had been taking prenatal vitamins and calcium supplements. Later that evening, the detective retrieved these items from the home. After this meeting, the husband fled the United States, leaving his children in the care of the decedent's family.....

This talk will demonstrate how a multidisciplinary approach to crime investigation, including chemical identification, cause of death, capture, and court proceedings, was used to convict the guilty party of aggravated murder.

### Speaker Biography

Mr. Rohde has been the Supervisor of Chemistry and Toxicology at the Lake County Crime Laboratory in Painesville, Ohio since January 2000 and also serves as an adjunct at Ohio Northern University and Cleveland State University. Additionally, he is a consultant in Forensic Toxicology and has worked for the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as a Toxicology Technical Reviewer. Mr. Rohde received an A.S. in Medical Laboratory Technology from Villa Maria College, a B.S. in Chemistry from Gannon University and M.S. in Chemistry (Clinical) from Cleveland State University. Mr. Rohde has provided expert witness testimony for many trials and has certification/licensure from various boards and agencies. He is a fellow in professional organizations such as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), Toxicology Section and the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC). He has numerous peer-reviewed and referenced abstracts in addition to articles appearing in DEA publications. His immense list of professional training includes areas such as toxicology, drug chemistry, clandestine laboratory, instrumental analysis, firearms, fire debris, crime scene, general forensics, laboratory accreditation, and clinical chemistry.

### Directions to Thiel College

**From the North:** Follow Route 79-S to the 322 (Conneaut Lake) exit. Follow 322-W to the Route 18-S intersection. Follow 18-S to the Thiel Campus.

**From the South:** Follow Route 79-N to the 80-W (Sharon) exit. Follow Route 80-W to the Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take Route 58-W into Greenville. Turn right on Main Street (Route 358-E). Follow Main Street to College Avenue. Turn left on College at the Sheetz Convenience Store. Follow College Avenue (Route 18-N) to the Thiel Campus.

**From the West:** Follow Route 80-E to Exit 4-B (Sharon-Hermitage). Pick up Route 18-N, which takes you into Greenville (approximately 16 miles north). Turn right on Main Street (Route 358-E); follow Main Street to College Avenue. Turn left on College at the Convenience Store. Follow College Avenue (Route 18-N) to the Thiel Campus.

**From the East** Follow Route 80-W to the Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take Route 58-W into Greenville and then follow Route 18-N to the Thiel Campus or...

Take the PA Turnpike to the I-79N exit. Follow 79-N to the 80-W (Sharon) exit. Follow Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take 58-W into Greenville and take 18-N to the Thiel Campus.

### Minutes of the April 27, 2012 Meeting, Westminster College

Emeritus Senior Scientist of Western Regional Research Center, Albany, California and ACS President 2001 Dr. Attila Pavlath was the special guest. He spoke on "Life Without Chemistry? We Would Be Back in the Stone Age!" Dr. Pavlath provided numerous examples about how difficult life would be without the important contributions of chemistry. He also discussed what individuals could and should do to overcome the negative picture that is frequently painted for chemistry by the media.

A poster session was also held for the undergraduate and graduate chemistry majors from the local colleges. Sixteen posters were presented with "Microwave-Assisted Hydrothermal Synthesis of Lutetium oxyorthosilicate (LSO)" by Hannah Anderson and Allison Rice and advisor Dr. Peter Smith of Westminster College and "Quantification of 4-ethylphenol in Belgium Style Beers using GC-MS" by Ashley Blystone and advisor Dr. Sarah Kennedy of Westminster College being the winners.

Recipients of the College Award for Excellence in Chemistry were: James Alburger, Grove City College; Ashley Ballister, Youngstown State University; Jaimie Daum, Westminster College; Joshua Murphy, Kent State – Trumbull; and Ryan Pepper, Thiel College. Chemistry Olympiad Local Section Exam Honorees were: Grove City Area High School – Teacher, Richard Samsa- Students, Michael Augspurger and Lauren Hyduchak; Howland High School – Teacher, Andrea Ferenac – Student, Krista Bullard; Ursuline High School – Teacher, Jennifer DePizzo – Students, Camron Bagheri and Joseph Belgrad; and Warren G. Harding High School – Teacher, Amy Hays-Neifer- Students, Stephen Kines and Allison Thirion. The POBS Section Award for Excellence in High School Teaching was presented to Richard Samsa of Grove City Area High School. Dr. Stanley Cobbledick was recognized as a 60 year member of ACS.

## Councilor's Report CERMACS Report

The Central Regional Meeting was held at the Henry Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan from June 5-9, 2012. The Plenary Lectures were "Low Temperature Growth of High Purity, Low Resistivity Copper Films by Atomic Layer Deposition" by Charles H. Winter, "Materials Challenges for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Personal Mobility" by Alan Taub, "Creating Chemistry for a Sustainable Future" by Volker Schaedler, and "Thinking about Graduate School?" by Matthew J. Allen. The last Plenary Lecture was held on Saturday during the "Battle of the Chem Clubs Royale" (see FYI at end of report). Meghann Murray was the winner of the American Chemical Society Central Region E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society and Laura Slocum from University High School of Indiana was the winner of the ACS Division of Chemical Education Central Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching. The social events were a Mixer on Tuesday evening, WCC Luncheon, 100<sup>th</sup> Detroit Anniversary Dinner, YCC Luncheon, Ice Cream Social with ACS Governance and Central Regional Awards Dinner.

The schedule for upcoming regional meeting is as follows:

44 <sup>th</sup> CRM May 15 – 18	2013	MIDLAND	Phil Squattrito Chem Dept. Central Michigan University p.squattrito@cmich.edu
45 <sup>th</sup> CRM Oct 1 – 4	2014	PITTSBURGH	Heather Juzwa Shimadzu Sci. Insts., Inc. hljuzwa@shimadzu.com
46 <sup>th</sup> CRM	2015	Joint with Great Lakes	
47 <sup>th</sup> CRM	2016		
48 <sup>th</sup> CRM	2017	?? Detroit	
49 <sup>th</sup> CRM	2018		
50 <sup>th</sup> CRM	2019	MIDLAND (100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)	General Chair to be named

### REPORTS:

The 42<sup>th</sup> CRM Committee, Indiana Section had over 800 attendees, over 30 exhibitors and 463 abstracts. The meeting posted a loss of \$3439. The Indiana Section paid back the \$2000 loan. The loss was attributed to the venue being very expensive and the Section not meeting minimum hotel-room nights. So instead of giving money to hotel, the Section had continuous breaks (coffee & food) in the Conference Center. They gave each symposium \$1000 for invited speakers. Sponsorships were only 50% of previous amounts (2004) also. Suggestions for future: Start early and have more than one person for each position, use PACS and do it early, have AV support in presentation rooms, have poster session in close proximity to exhibitors.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> CRM Committee, Detroit Section reported 493 attendees (only 318 advanced registered). Plenary speakers were free and there was no support for invited speakers. Detroit Section wants to host again in 2017. They expect a profit. Suggestion for future: run six months earlier, make 7 topics for sessions – Organic, Inorganic, Biochem, Physical, Analytical, Education and General. Review is on website – "At a Glance"

## POBS Tentative Schedule for 2012-13

<b>September 21</b>	<b>Forensics</b> , Lake County Crime Lab - Thiel College
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Chemistry of Chocolate</b> , Howard Peters - Grove City
<b>February 2013</b>	<b>Demonstrations</b> , Al Hatzari – Youngstown State University
<b>April 2013</b>	<b>Annual Chemistry Awards Banquet &amp; Poster Symposium</b>
<b>May 15-18, 2013</b>	<b>The 44<sup>th</sup> ACS Central Regional meeting</b> , hosted by the Midland Section Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI "Building Blocks for a Sustainable World." <a href="http://2013cerm.sites.acs.org/">http://2013cerm.sites.acs.org/</a>

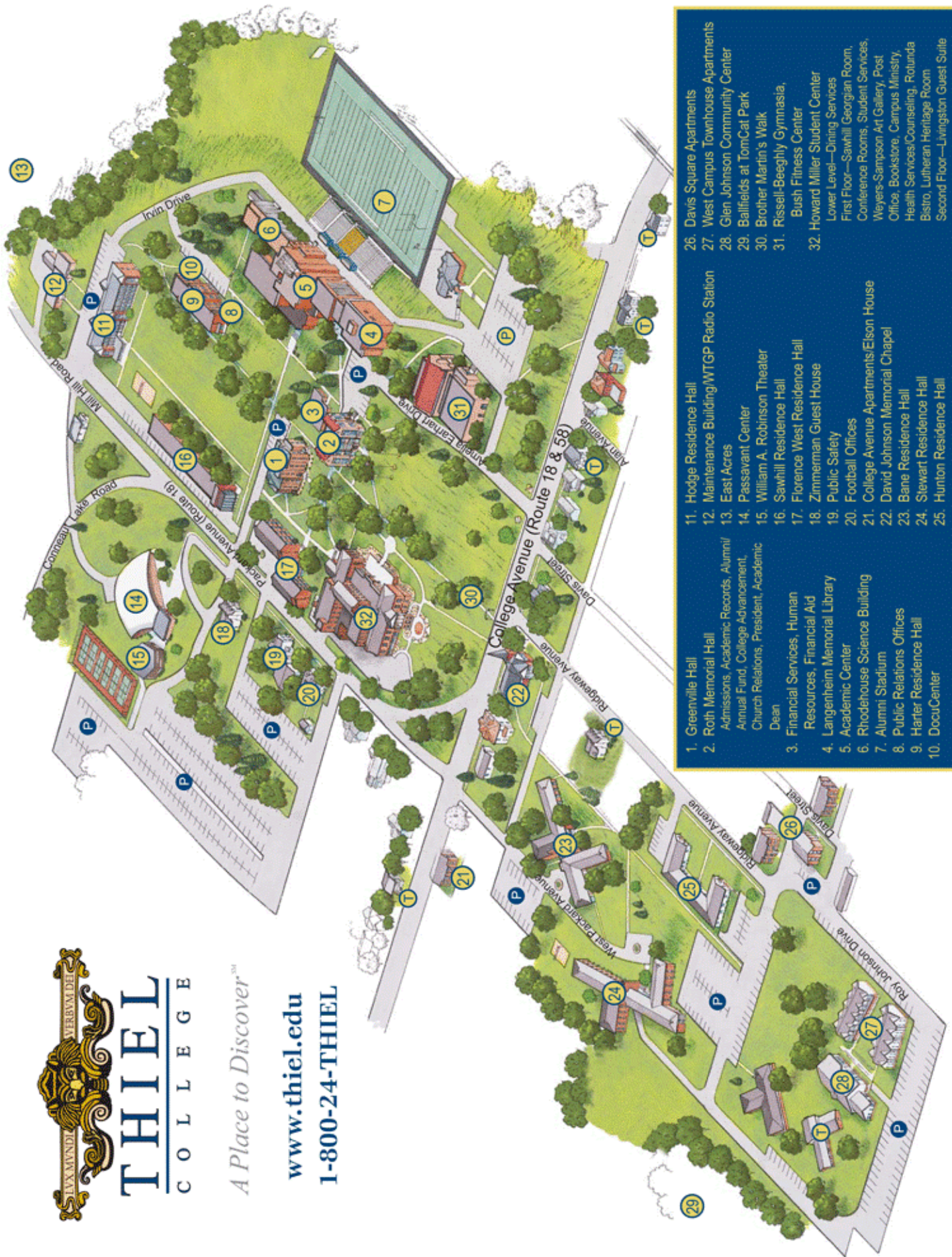


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- 3. Financial Services, Human Resources, Financial Aid
- 4. Langerheim Memorial Library
- 5. Academic Center
- 6. Rhodenhouse Science Building
- 7. Alumni Stadium
- 8. Public Relations Offices
- 9. Harter Residence Hall
- 10. DocuCenter
- 11. Hodge Residence Hall
- 12. Maintenance Building/WTGP Radio Station
- 13. East Acres
- 14. Passavant Center
- 15. William A. Robinson Theater
- 16. Sawhill Residence Hall
- 17. Florence West Residence Hall
- 18. Zimmerman Guest House
- 19. Public Safety
- 20. Football Offices
- 21. College Avenue Apartments/Elson House
- 22. David Johnson Memorial Chapel
- 23. Bane Residence Hall
- 24. Stewart Residence Hall
- 25. Hunton Residence Hall
- 26. Davis Square Apartments
- 27. West Campus Townhouse Apartments
- 28. Glen Johnson Community Center
- 29. Ballfields at TomCat Park
- 30. Brother Martin's Walk
- 31. Rissell-Beghtly Gymnasium,  
Bush Fitness Center
- 32. Howard Miller Student Center  
Lower Level—Dining Services  
First Floor—Sawhill Georgian Room,  
Conference Rooms, Student Services,  
Weyers-Sempson Art Gallery, Post Office, Bookstore, Campus Ministry,  
Health Services/Counseling, Rotunda  
Bistro, Lutheran Heritage Room  
Second Floor—Livingston Guest Suite