Bayou Boilers

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Upcoming Events

The Annual Chemistry Excellence Award Banquet will be Wednesday November 13th at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the LaJeunesse Room

SWRM ACS in Waco TX November 16th – 20th 2013

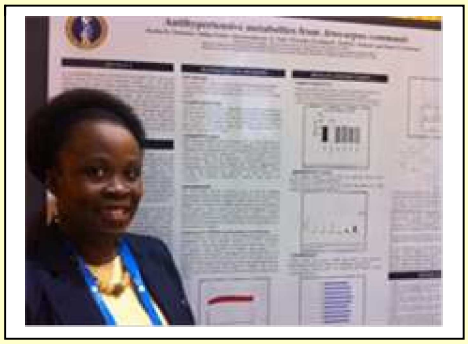
Louisiana Organic Chemistry Symposium (LOCS) 2013, November 22nd 2013 LSU Baton Rouge LA

246th ACS National Conference, Dallas TX March 16th – 20th, 2014

Crocodile Specialist Group Meeting May 25th-31st, 2014 McNeese State University

ACS Nationals in the Big Easy

New Orleans hosted the 245th National ACS meeting on April 7th – 11th 2013. Over 15,000 academics, chemists and students attended the conference focused on "Chemistry of Energy and Food". The Natural Products Research Group at McNeese State presented their findings on "The Antihypertensive, Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant activity of Breadfruit leaf tea" in the general poster session Tuesday April 8th 2013. The poster was also selected for the Sci-Mixer session.



More than 600 oral and poster presentations are available online see http://presentations.acs.org/common/conferences.aspx

Keisha Christian presenting poster at 245th National ACS in New Orleans LA

McNeese Host 2013 ACS SEED II Program

McNeese State University, Department Chemistry & Physics was awarded the American Chemical Society (ACS) 2013 Project SEED Fellowship. The grant was written by Dr. Omar Christian. The **S**cience **E**xperience for the **E**conomically **D**isadvantaged Fellowship is funded jointly by the national ACS and the local Southwest Louisiana section of the ACS. The principal aim of the program is the introduction of motivated high school scholars to current chemical research under the mentorship of college faculty. Zeadrick Williams was the recipient of the 2013 SEED II Fellowship and worked with Dr. Christian's group investigating prenylated benzophenones from *Hypericum brachyphyllum*.

Zeadrick Williams using the Medium Pressure Liquid Chromatography system to purify a mixture.

Louisiana Organic Chemistry Symposium LOCS 2013

The LSU department of chemistry will host the first biennial Louisiana Organic Chemistry symposium (LOCS) on Friday, November 22, 2013. Students and faculty are invited to participate in this event. This symposium is an excellent venue for undergraduate/graduate students to give oral or poster presentations on their research and to network with their peers from various institutions in Louisiana and neighboring states. The keynote speakers for the symposium feature organic chemists, such as Prof. Deborah Dolliver from Southeastern Louisiana University and Prof. Richmond Sarpong from UC Berkeley.

McNeese State University Alumni Association Undergraduate Scholar and Research Symposium (USRS) 2013-2014

The symposium highlights students' research on topics that will make an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to their field of study. There is a student award of $300.00 which is awarded to projects selected for presentation at the University of Louisiana System (ULS) Academic Summit in April 2014.
For more information see:
http://www.mcneese.edu/research/mcneese_state_university_alumni_association_unde

23rd Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group

McNeese State University will host the 23rd meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group from May 25th – 31st 2014. The theme of the meeting is "Crocodilian Conservation: A Lesson in History". This worldwide crocodilian conference is held biannually and researchers from over 50 countries will attend this meeting.
The last 6 conferences have been held in: Darwin (Australia), Montelimar (France), Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Manaus (Brazil), Negrombo, (Sri Lanka). Dr. Mark Merchant (MSU) is the conference organizer. For registration or other details, he may be contacted at mmerchant@mcneese.edu or 337-475-5773

American Chemical Society and American Institute of Chemical Engineers Soccer Match

The student affiliates and faculty mentors of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) squared off in a first of its kind soccer match. The chemist had the winning formula for a (3-0) victory. While the engineers are now busy drawing up plans for revenge!! *See page 4*

Some useful links

Journal Articles
http://pubs.acs.org/action/showpublications?display=journals

Scifinder Mobile
http://www.cas.org/products/scifinder/sf-mobile

Marvinsketch (Drawing and prediction of chemical structures)
http://www.chemaxon.com/products/marvin/marvinsketch/

People Briefs

Congratulations to Dr. Kiran Boggarvarapu who was recently tenured in the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Kiran is also the recipient of a Louisiana Board of Regents grant "Computational Design of PbS Quantum Dots with Unique Optical and Magnetic Properties".

Ms. Grizelle Brunet is a Sr. Lab Supervisor with Axiall Corporation. Grizelle is the treasurer for the SWLA ACS serving in this position since 1999. She has also served as section chair.

Dr. Ron Darbeau (Department Head, Chemistry and Physics) is serving his third 3-year term as a member of the American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training (CPT) and is the current Vice Chair of the Committee. He is also a member of the writing group charged with rewriting the guidelines for approval of baccalaureate programs for release in spring 2014. Ron is also Alternate Councilor for the SWLA ACS.

Mr. Bob Pertuit is a Counselor for the SWLA ACS and our immediate Past President. Bob recently represented our local section at the 246th National ACS meeting held in Indianapolis, IN Sept 8th – 12th. "Chemistry in Motion"

Dr. Joseph (Joe) Sneddon is the President of the local ACS section. Joe is the editor-in-chief of Applied Spectroscopy and Microchemical Journal and an Associate Editor for Spectroscopy Letters.

Mr. Jim Champagne recently retired from W.R. Grace as a QA/QC manager. Jim is a Past President of the SWLA ACS.

Recent Publications

Merchant, M., Murray, C., and Cooper, A. **2013**. American alligator nests as a microhabitat for a diversity of vertebrates. *J.Herpetol*. In press.

Watson, C. M. and Merchant, M. 2013. Observations on the Defensive Mechanisms of Crocodilians in the Genera Paleosuchus and Osteolaemus. *Herp Rev*. In press.

Merchant, M., Determan, C., Falconi, R., and Shirley, M. Serum Complement Activity in Two Species of Diverse West African Crocodiles. Intern. *J. Biochem Res Rev.*, In press.

Merchant, Mark. **2013**. From Marshes to medicine: the role of immunological defense in the American alligator. In Reptiles in Research: Investigations of Ecology, Physiology, and Behavior from Desert to Sea. Editor: William Lutterschmidt. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Hauppauge, NY.

Merchant, M., Li, Z., Sullivan, J., and Cooper, A. **2013**. Modification of motion-sensitive digital camera traps for the study of ectothermic vertebrates. *Herp Rev*. 44, 62-65.

Merchant, M., Falconi, R., Muscher, B., Bryja, J. **2013**. Characterization of Serum Complement Activity in Serum of the Komodo Dragon (Varanus komodoensis). *Adv Biol. Chem*. 2, 353-359.

Merchant, Mark. **2013** A comparative study of Gulf Coast American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) populations. Copeia 3, 268-276.

Siroski, P., Merchant, M., Poletta, G., Larriera, A., and Ortega, H. **2013**. Detection and characterization of phospholipase A2 (PLA2) in Caiman latirostris and Caiman yacare plasma. *Zool Sci.* 30, 35-41.

Murray, C., Piller, K., Merchant, M., Cooper, A., and Easter, M. E. **2013**. Salinity and alligator egg shape variation: a geometric morphometric analysis. *J. Herp*. 1, 15-23.

Christian, K.R.; Pothu, S.; Nair, M.G.; Prathipati, P.; Jackson, K. and Christian, O.E. **2013**. Antihypertensive, Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant Activity of Breadfruit Leaf Tea. *Natural Products Communication*, in press.

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