

# ACS – Northeast Wisconsin Section

American Chemical Society

February 2012

## Welcome 2012!

Welcome to the New Year everyone! For me, 2012 is already off to a fast and furious start. For the NEW Local Section, we are continuing to work with the other WI and UP Local Sections to coordinate our Speaker Series. We already have speakers lined up for February, April, and October. Our awards banquet to honor our students and teachers will happen in May. Hopefully we can work in a few more events throughout the year that will generate some more excitement and participation.

One change for 2012 is that we have a new Chair-elect. James Wang, a fellow K-C'er, has agreed to step up for this role. We will have James introduce himself in a later newsletter. The rest of the Executive Committee has remained the same but we are always looking for others in the section that are interested in a great leadership opportunity!

That is all for now and I hope to see everyone at our first talk at UW.



Corey Cunningham – Chair

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## ◆ February 2012 Section Meeting

Dr. Jeff Bryan  
UW-LaCrosse

**“Depleted Uranium”**

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
UW - Oshkosh  
367 Halsey Science Center



[Map](#)

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## **Dr. Jeff Bryan, UW-LaCrosse, “Depleted Uranium”**

It has been implicated as a possible cause to a variety of ailments for veterans of the Gulf Wars. This presentation will explain what it is, where it comes from, what it is used for and why Gulf War vets were exposed to it. The talk will explore the nuclear and material science of depleted uranium as well as its main applications.

Jeff C. Bryan was born in Minnesota and raised in California, and believes that his odd childhood mixture of Jell-O salad and reticence in a free and open society have caused his various personality quirks. He earned an A.B. in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley with emphasis on organic chemistry and Scandinavian studies. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington studying inorganic chemistry under the supervision of Jim Mayer. His thesis presented a new chemical reaction, the oxidative addition of multiple bonds to low-valent tungsten. He then spent a year of postdoctoral work with Warren Roper at Auckland University investigating iridium-carbon multiple bonds.

He spent five years at Los Alamos National Laboratory, initially as a postdoctoral fellow, then as a staff member. Under the supervision of Al Sattleberger, he initiated a modestly successful research program synthesizing new compounds of technetium. He then spent eight years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a crystallographer in Bruce Moyer’s chemical separations group. The major group project during that time was development of a process to separate  $^{137}\text{Cs}^+$  from defense wastes.

He has spent the past nine years as a chemistry faculty member at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, where, despite his best efforts, he has been promoted to full professor. His current scholarship focuses on making nuclear chemistry and radiation physics more accessible to students with limited science and math backgrounds. As part of this effort, he has authored a textbook titled Introduction to Nuclear Science, and coauthored a lab manual titled Experiments in Nuclear Science.

He is an engaging and entertaining speaker. He has given over 40 invited presentations at a variety of conferences and meetings including Gordon Conferences and National ACS meetings, and currently specializes in speaking to various groups on nuclear science.

## **ChemShare Tour of UW-Oshkosh Biodigester**

UW-Oshkosh has constructed the first commercial scale dry fermentation [anaerobic biodigester](#). Generating 5 percent of the campus need for heat and electricity, this unit can utilize food, agriculture and yard waste. ChemShare, a local organization of science teachers, will be touring the facility Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-12:30. If you are interested in attending this tour, please contact [Pat Hallquist](#).

## **ACS Webinar**

Check out an excellent ACS Webinar on better scientific writing - <http://acswebinars.org/writewellandprosper> The presentation contains several useful links as well – author’s Stanford site; a journal site, and a link to “The Elements of Style” that is free. Other ACS Webinars – Fundamentals of Effective Scientific Writing - <http://acswebinars.org/sainani>

## **Chemists Celebrate Earth Day – April 22, 2012**

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) is April 22, 2012 and I have important information regarding this year's [CCED Illustrated Poem Contest](#).

**CCED Illustrated Poem Contest** — Coordinators are invited to hold a local CCED Illustrated Poem Contest for Students in Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The theme for CCED is “Rethinking Recycling—It’s Easy to Be Green!” A [customizable sample flyer](#) may be used to announce the contest within your area. Be sure to edit the flyer with your local section contest deadline, submission instructions, and any prizes you choose to award.

**National Deadline:** The national deadline to submit your local winners to the ACS National Office is **Friday, April 6, 2012**, so please plan your local section contests accordingly. Scanned submissions are strongly encouraged. Email submissions and [entry forms](#) to [outreach@acs.org](mailto:outreach@acs.org). Only local contest winners will be considered for the national contest.

**National Prizes:** ACS will award \$300 to first-place and \$150 to second-place winners in each grade category. Winners will be selected in each of the following four categories:

- o K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- o 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- o 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## **Explosion at UW-Madison Chemistry Lab**

A minor [explosion](#) in a chemistry lab at UW-Madison recently is a reminder that safety should be at the forefront of everything we do.

## **ON THE WEB**

### **Science on Saturdays**

Princeton archives their “[Science on Saturdays](#)” lecture series. Geared toward high school students, the lectures are informative.

### **Wednesday Night at the Lab**

Similarly, UW-Madison hosts [evening lectures](#) highlighting research underway at UW-Madison. You can catch the current series online, or watch [archived](#) lectures.

### **Free Webinars from ACS**

The American Chemical Society offers on their website many [webinars](#). Past webinars are archived and available for free on demand.

### **Directory of Open Access Journals**

The [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) is a growing compilation of journals available online at no cost. There are over 150 chemistry journals cited.

### **Northeast Wisconsin Section Newsletter**

Do you have items to share? Put it in the newsletter! Send an [email](#) and we’ll be glad to get it in print.

<http://newisc.sites.acs.org/>