THE JACOB F. SCHOELLKOPF MEDAL

The Schoellkopf Medal is the oldest ACS local section award in the nation, and was named in honor of chemical industry entrepreneur Jacob F. Schoellkopf, founder of National Aniline Works. For 90 years, the award has been a testimony of achievement in chemical technology on the Niagara Frontier. For the past 2 years, the WNYACS Awards Committee has regretably postponed the annual Schoellkopf award banquet due to pandemic restrictions and common sense caution in the interest of public safety. In both 2020 and 2021, however, outstanding Schoellkopf medalists have been named.

The WNYACS Schoellkopf award jury has selected Prof. David Hangauer, of the Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo, as the 91th Schoellkopf Medal recipient…"in recognition of his visionary work on the discovery of cancer therapies and his entrepreneurial impact for the advancement of the pharmaceutical industry in the region."

In 2020, the WNYACS awarded the Schoellkopf medal to Prof. Mary McCourt, of the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics, Niagara University…"in recognition of her pioneering contributions to the development of drug delivery methods for the treatment of breast cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s disease, and for her outstanding dedication to teaching and mentoring."

Both Prof. Hangauer and Prof. McCourt will be honored at the Schoellkopf award banquet, which is tentatively planned for Tuesday, April 5, 2022. For banquet information, watch for an announcement here in the coming months.

OFFICER CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

The following slate of candidates for 2022 WNYACS Executive positions has been established. In accordance with our bylaws, an election ballot will be circulated. Look for a separate email from KwikSurveys.com for instructions on the voting process.

For Chair (2022):
Dominic Ventura was born in Buffalo and has lived in the Western New York area his entire life. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from the University at Buffalo in 2004, completed his Ph.D. from the same institution under professor Huw M. L. Davies in 2008, and then joined the faculty at D’Youville College in the fall of 2009. At D’Youville College he has taught general, organic, and organometallic chemistry as well as other science courses such as astronomy and natural disasters. D’Youville College has hosted the WNYACS Undergraduate Research Symposium twice and both times Dominic has chaired the organizing committee for the event. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Chemistry at D’Youville College and is overseeing the process to get their chemistry degree ACS approved. His research interests include the use of metallophthalocyanines as catalysts in various carbenoid transformations.

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Rob was a member of the ACS student chapter at Canisius from 2007 to 2011 and served as chapter president from 2010 to 2011. In his free time, Rob enjoys the outdoors, glassblowing, and family; he can be reached at robert.stewart@honeywell.com.

For Councilor (2022-2024):

David Nalewajek is currently an ACS Fellow and recently retired Research Fellow at Honeywell. He received his B.S. in chemistry from Canisius College in 1974 and his Ph.D. from UB in 1978. His postdoctoral work was spent at AT&T Bell Laboratories where he researched the design and synthesis of multidimensional superconductors. His current research interests remain in the development of environmentally acceptable CFC replacements and fluorine based polymers for use in electronic and membrane separation technologies. He currently holds 90 U.S. Patents. Dave has been active in community outreach activities since 1980, serving as lecturer/demonstrator at the Buffalo Museum of Science and at local elementary schools. Within the WNYACS organization, he has held positions of member-at-large, vice-chair, chair-elect and chair. He has served as councilor for this Section since 1992. In addition, Dave has served three terms as chair of the Schoellkopf committee and was the recipient of the Schoellkopf award in 2003. In 2013, Dave was recognized as ACS Volunteer of the Year for the WNY Section. In 2015, he was elected as Fellow of the American Chemical Society for his work on CFC replacements and promotion of STEM initiatives in the WNY community. Dave also serves as chair for National Chemistry Week, where he has served as chair/co-chair since its inception.

For Member at Large (2022-2023):

Lindsay Rose is a Buffalo import! She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and was hooked on chemistry through the influence of her high school teacher. She attended Butler University as a chemistry major and went on to earn her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Cornell University. She is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Niagara County Community College and received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2019. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, photography, and spending time with her family.

Sujit Suwal is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at SUNY-Buffalo State College in Buffalo. He received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University under Mary K. Pflum in 2010, where he developed a phosphorylation-dependent photo-crosslinking approach that can match a kinase and protein substrate. He then joined Thomas Kodadek's lab at The Scripps Research Institute, Florida as a post-doctoral fellow. After serving as a researcher at The Sylvester Cancer Institute, University at Miami for a year, he joined SUNY-Buffalo State as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. He has taught general, organic, and biochemistry to chemistry, Nutrition, and Dietetics undergraduate students. His research interest includes developing novel chemical scaffolds that can be used in the solid-phase synthesis of peptidomimetics.
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