# CINTACS



Newsletter of the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society

January, 2012 Vol. 49 No. 4

### **Meeting Calendar**

# Jan. 11 Joint with AICHE @The College of Mount St. Joseph, Dr. Joseph Leazer

### Feb. 8 Chemist of the Year, Sharonville Convention Center

- Mar. 14 Joint with Dayton section @Beckett Ridge Country Club, TBD
- Apr. 18 Education Awards Night @NKU, John Warner, Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry

May Party Night, TBD

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### JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Dining Hall, Seton Center College of Mount St Joseph

Sponsored by Givaudan Flavors and Iota Sigma Pi

Featured Speaker:
Dr. John Leazer
Director of Sustainable Technology, EPA
Green Chemistry Advances at EPA

Register Online: Please register online if possible at <a href="http://registration.acscincinnati.org/">http://registration.acscincinnati.org/</a>
Alternatively, you may email the webmaster at <a href="webmas-ter@acscincinnati.org">webmas-ter@acscincinnati.org</a> to register. Registration will close at noon on Monday, January 9.

### Program:

5:30 – 7:00 pm: Registration, Seton Center Lobby 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Social Hour, 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Dinning Hall 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Dinner. 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Dinning Hall (\$25.00 or \$15.00 for students, emeritus, unemployed & new members). Menu: Panko & Parmesan-Crusted Chicken in a White Wine Sauce, 3-Cheese Tortellini, Winter Green Salad with Apple Cider Vinaigrette, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Baked Rolls, and a Chocolate Torte with Crème Fraiche.

8:00 – 9:00 pm: Speaker, Dr. John Leazer Directions to Meeting Venue:

The 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Dining Hall is located in the Seton Center at the College of Mount. St Joseph. Parking for the meeting is available free of charge in the east parking garage on the corner of Neeb and Delhi Rds directly across from the entrance to the Seton Center. A campus map and directions can be found at: http://www.msj.edu/view/contact-us/campus-maps.aspx

### THE CINTACS NEWSLETTER

### Vol. 49, No. 4 January, 2012

Editor......Adam Bange Advertising.....Dan Esterline

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### From The Chair

Greetings Section Members,

I hope you had a restful and relaxing holiday season and were able to spend time celebrating with your families. Furthermore, as it is early in the New Year, my hope is that you have been able to keep up with your New Year's resolutions thus far. The rest of my message will propose a New Year's resolution made on behalf of our section. But first, a story (with some relevance):

Last semester, the Xavier University Philosophy Club held its first annual Lifeboat Debate. While these have been successful at other colleges and universities, this was the first of its kind held at Xavier. The basic premise of the debate was that the civilization had come to a sudden halt. and there were but a few survivors who would have the burden of rebuilding society. These survivors, who were exclusively students, would be charged with selecting one faculty member to join them on their journey. Amongst the faculty chosen/willing to participate were members of various departments including Philosophy, Theology, Economics, English, Mathematics and Chemistry, with me being the fortunate soul whose responsibility was to defend our discipline. One additional faculty member participated. known as the Devil's Advocate whose aim was to convince the students to reject all of their professors, and their respective disciplines, presumably so there was more room on the boat.

At this point, I want to encourage you as chemists to consider what approach you would have taken, were you the representative of Chemistry. Why would a chemist be more valuable than a representative of another academic discipline to help rebuild society? What skills does a chemist bring to the table that would allow a young society to thrive? And how are those other disciplines less equipped to solve the problems that Chemistry can solve? Feel free to send me your responses to the questions above, and the best ideas will be published in a future CINTACS. More importantly, these ideas can be used to help achieve a different result for our discipline in future Lifeboat Debates.

As you may have guessed, there will be no chemist on the boat that rebuilds society. And while I did my best, I am sure that my colleagues in the department as well as members of the section could have done a much better job in making the case for Chemistry; the reasons are obvious. But what might be more instructive for the ACS and Chemistry as a whole, is to look at why the arguments made against the discipline of chemistry earning a spot on the boat. There were two predominant arguments. The first directly rebutted the case I had made in discussing what good chemistry, science and technology have done for the current society. A faculty member from a different department suggested that, as an example, the pharmaceutical industry (which I regard as having greatly benefitted society) is so corrupt, or profit driven, that it effectively has done little that is worthwhile for our society. The second argument was even more disturbing. While the preamble to the debate made no mention of how the current society was destroyed, the assumption made by several faculty members was that science and technology was likely the responsible discipline.

It should be noted that much of the banter between faculty members was good spirited, and the jabs against the other disciplines were made "all in good fun." However, when it came time to vote, the students tended to agree with the "anti-science" rhetoric. Their first choice was to bring none of the faculty members on the boat. While this might say something about how students value their college education, that is a topic for another time. The runner up, and therefore most important of the disciplines, in the students' mind was Philosophy. While we could imagine a certain bias of the students, given that it was organized by the Philosophy Club, and perhaps to react to these results is to overreact, it seems that, in general, society 's opinions are not so far removed from the views of these students. A 2010 Harris poll

suggests that only 11% of people trust the pharmaceutical industry, just a bit better than the 2% of people that trust the tobacco companies. Shockingly, a larger percentage of people (46%) feel that the pharmaceutical industry needs more regulation than the tobacco industry (38%). Taking just this data, it is clear that society's view of chemistry, science and technology is less than favorable, with the "positive" of these industries often being overshadowed by the "negative."

While it is true that science and technology misapplied and under regulated can result in tragic outcomes, there can be little doubt that historically the good has outweighed the bad. And the ultimate irony is that many of the problems of today, climate change, dependence on oil, environmental contamination, health care costs, to name a few, can only significantly be addressed, not through governmental regulation, through science and chemistry itself. As was demonstrated at the December meeting by Professor James Mack, the field of Green Chemistry is making significant progress in reducing the amount of waste and toxicity associated with organic reactions. At the January meeting, to be held at the College of Mt. St. Joseph, we will hear from Dr. John Leazer of the EPA, where he will discuss Green Chemistry and Engineering research efforts ongoing at the EPA. Finally, and in keeping with what has emerged as a theme for this year's meetings, Dr. John Warner of the Warner-Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry in Massachusetts will speak at the April Meeting at Northern Kentucky. Suffice it to say, the field of chemistry is actively engaged in solving society's problems, even if some of the problems being solved were created by the misuse and misapplication of science and technology itself.

Previous "From the Chair" columns have recently discussed the benefits of Local Section membership to the members themselves. However, what is the value of the ACS and the Local Section to the discipline of Chemistry, and more importantly, to the society in which we live? When considering the story discussed at length above. I think it becomes incredibly clear that the ACS needs to be proactive in promoting the positives that come from chemistry. The efforts being made to solve problems in our society should be highlighted, or at the minimum, be given equal exposure as that given to the negatives. That is a primary goal of the Society, and it is evident in many of the programs we conduct locally, National Chemistry Week, Project Seed and Earth Day, to name a few. My question then is this: What more can our section do to enhance the reputation of chemistry amongst the general populace in the Greater Cincinnati Area? How can we share with our friends and neighbors the manner in which chemistry has positively impacted their lives? More importantly, what can we do to get a seat on the lifeboat? And the resolution, on behalf of the section, is this...Let's Do More!

Hope to see you at a future meeting, and would love to elaborate on the discussion above with anyone that is interested.

Regards, Rick Mullins Chair ACS Cincinnati Section mullinsr@xavier.edu

### **Younger Chemists Committee Revival**

The Younger Chemists Committee of the Cincinnati Section of the ACS is being revived, with the first of the meetings to be held in mid-October/ early November. Younger chemists and chemists new to their field will meet to socialize and talk about our favorite thing --chemistry. Other topics are not, however, off the table -- particularly if they reference any comedy and/or obscure movie quotes. While some may put a rigid definition on what it means to be a younger chemist, we don't. Thus, if you are interested in attending, whether you are younger in age, or simply in spirit, please feel free to join us. Our first meeting will be a "Wing and Trivia Extravaganza." This will be held at "InCahoots" in Blue Ash on January 18th. The YCC will meet at 7pm for mingling, appetizers, and cocktails. At 8pm, trivia will begin. In order to plan this event, it would be helpful if those that are interested could email the chair of the committee. Vanessa Barnes (vfrostbarnes@markes.com) so that she can place you on an email list for direct communication. Furthermore, feel free to forward other ideas for fun future outings to Vanessa as well.

### Connect with the ACS on







@Cincinnati\_ACS



January featured speaker:

### Dr. John Leazer

Director of Sustainable Technology, US EPA, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Dr. John Leazer is the Director of the Sustainable Technology Division of EPA's research lab, NRMRL, in Cincinnati (Corryville campus). Trained as a synthetic -organic chemist, he spent 22 years in the pharmaceutical industry where he became very interested in green chemistry. He began working for EPA in 2009 to oversee and develop the division's research portfolio and impact environmental solutions through green chemistry and green engineering.

### **Green Chemistry Advances at EPA**

EPA scientists are charged with solving real-world problems related to human health and the environment. Additionally, they are also challenged with solving these problems in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainability. Green chemistry addresses the fundamentals of most of the work done within the EPA's chemistry research programs. Green chemistry, first conceived within EPA, has taken a prominent position within EPA and the entire chemical research community. Advances in green chemistry have reached new levels in the scientific community and society, thereby resulting in unprecedented innovations in chemistry, materials, economics, pollution prevention and human health.

EPA researchers have taken a leadership role in the development of numerous systems that have fundamentally changed chemical research as well as business practices in many sectors (e.g. waste remediation and water decontamination). EPA scientists have developed numerous sustainable processes that have resulted in decreased harm to human health and the environment, using green chemistry as a scaffold. The work presented herein will focus on recent green chemistry activities, as well as the human health and environmental impacts resulting thereof.

## International Year of Chemistry

Our report in the May 2011 CINTACS (Vol. 48 No. 8), covered the first of four events held at the Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) celebrating the International Year of Chemistry (IYC). That first event (March 25, 2011) had the theme "Water in Our World" and was a great start to a busy year for our demonstrating volunteers!

Our second IYC event, focusing on the theme "Energy – is Everywhere" was actually celebrated in two locations...during the Earth Day celebration at Sawyer Point (April 16, 2011 - described by our Chemists Celebrate Earth Day coordinator, Donna Wiedemann, in her September 2011 CINTACS article) and then revisited at the CMC on May 6th, 2011. We demonstrated the power of wind with an Air-Zooka toy, the power of water with surface tension boats and erosion models, the power of chemistry with magnets, hot/cold packs, and clocks powered by orange juice, apples, or potatoes, and the power of the sun with solar-powered toys and UVsensitive beads. Dr. Mingming Lu's students from the University of Cincinnati's Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering pro-



Biodiesel!



Powered by the chemistry of food!

vided an excellent demonstration on making biodiesel fuel from cooking oil. They plan to partner with the Cincinnati Zoo to provide this demo to Zoo patrons while recycling the cooking oils used at the Zoo to help power their trams.

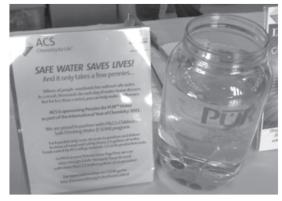
On August 5th, we organized the third IYC event around the CMC's Free Friday activity, where the Museum of Natural History and Science has free admission from 5 - 8 PM. We provided free non-stop demos from 2 to 8 PM; the place was hopping! The theme was "Living in a Materials World" - material properties, recycling, and nanomaterials. We had a "shrinky dink" station where kids could convert #6 plastic (polystyrene) from old salad bar containers and cake covers into jewelry, light catchers, or holiday decorations. Michele's columns for water cleaning returned to demonstrate the concept of nanomaterials (smaller filtering materials worked better!), and Kristi demonstrated how plastic bags can be made from #2 plastic milk jugs with the help from her trusty heat gun and a lot of lung power!

Our final IYC event centered around our traditional 2 days of demos at the CMC for National Chemistry Week, October 21st and 22nd with the theme: "Chemistry - Our Health, Our Future!". Ed's barfing pumpkins stole the show, demonstrating in a rather large way what happens when peroxide interacts with blood at a cut. NCW demos aren't complete without liquid nitrogen shrinking balloons, banana hammers, and disintegrating flowers – but we added a little talk about wart removal to fit the theme...a bit. J Our famous dry ice bubble fountain, ghostly floating bubbles, and the ultimate – Dr. Al Conklin's Wilmington College students' "drippy faucet" demos were also crowd pleasers. Lynn and Susan provided shaving cream lather printing for eager scientists to take home, and tossed in iron in cereal and vitamin C titration demos too. Scott set up near the fishtank of floating/sinking





cleaning columns:
rocks vs. pebbles vs.
sand vs. activated
charcoal --charcoal wins with sand
coming in a close
second!



## Donated over 515 sachets that will clean almost 1300 gallons of water!

soda cans and showed our visitors just how much sugar is in that can of sunken soda. Using glucose test strips, he also taught folks about lactose intolerance and hidden sugars in our foods. Donna and Keelin demonstrated aseptic packaging and "packaged" a few friends using a trash bag and vacuum. Michele had her columns for water cleaning demo running again along with 3 fun density experiments in liter bottles. Using combinations of pony beads, rubbing alcohol, and salt water...some confusing effects can be displayed! Everyone who came by could also take home an ACS Celebrating Chemistry newspaper.

Water was the central theme for all of IYC events. The National ACS was sponsoring a service project to collect pennies for PUR<sup>TM</sup> sachets for the Children's Safe Drinking Water Foundation. During our 2nd through 4th IYC events at the CMC, we set up a PUR<sup>TM</sup> jar game with 2 beakers down in the jar of water. If a coin landed in one of the two beakers, the player wins a Smarties candy roll. All the coins are to be donated to the ACS service project headquarters. We collected \$7 at IYC #2, \$5.15 at IYC #3, and \$5.88 at IYC #4 for a grand total of \$18.03. Each sachet costs 3.5 ¢ so our IYC PUR<sup>TM</sup> game

will provide about 515 sachets, cleaning close to 1300 gallons of drinking water.

Over the 4-event IYC program at the CMC, we touched well over 2500 eager participants. As always, there are so many people to thank! First, thank you to all our partners at the CMC - especially Regina Hall, director of the Museum of Natural History and Science. Next, we thank our sponsors - the ACS, Wright Brothers, Inc. for their annual donation of liquid nitrogen and P&G's Miami Valley Innovation Center for coolers of dry ice. Finally, we thank all the volunteer demonstrators: Al Conklin and Wilmington College students (please forgive me – I misplaced the list with names!), Brandon Dunphy, Kristi Fliter, Carrie Furnish, Xuefei Guo, Susan Hershberger, Lynn Hogue, Eric Johnson, Ariel Lebron, Michele Mangels, Scott Tremain, Qingshi Tu, Ed von Bargen, Jingjing Wang, Donna and Keelin Wiedemann, and Brittany Williams.

Reported by **Gloria Story** 



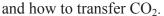


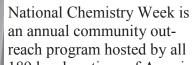
Art with soap!



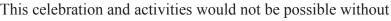
## NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK – Thank You to all that Helped out!!! We had another Successful Year!!

The theme for National Chemistry week this year was "Chemistry - Our Health our Future!" It explored the positive impacts of chemistry as it relates to nutrition, hygiene, and medicine. Some demonstrations included sodium acetate hand warmers, separation of iron from cereal, played with iodine/starch indicators on foods, weighed out the amount of sugar in soda pop cans, looked for glucose in ripe bananas with glucose test strips, determined the amount of vitamin c in fresh lemons versus lemon Kool-Aid, understand the differences between sinking and floating coke and diet coke cans,





189 local sections of American Chemical Society. It is designed to show how chemistry supports everyone and contributes to our quality of life and the nation's economy. This year, chemists and engineers from all over the community, were brought together to help celebrate by leading chemistry demonstrations all over the Greater Cincinnati Area.



the support of our volunteers and sponsors. This year, volunteers and sponsorship came from local in-

dustries, companies, and universities. Special thanks to Cognis, Givaudan, Procter & Gamble, Wright Brothers, Inc., Washing Systems, Seven Hills High School, Summit Country Day School, Wilmington College, University of Cincinnati, Xavier University. Monetary donations contributed by sponsors go towards paying for inserts in the Cincinnati Enquirer, and the purchase of extra demo supplies for volunteers. The Newspapers in Education (NIE) was coordinated by Kathy Gibboney. Also, thank you to Jamie Heimkreiter, who coordinated our local section and ACS national poem contest. We will celebrate our winners at our April meeting. Gloria Story coordinated activities at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and Jackie Thomas coordinated activities at the local libraries.





### **Chemistry Demo Practice**

Ed Escudero led the Chemistry Demonstration preparation workshop again this year. It was held on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> at Summit Country Day High School. A big THANK YOU to Ed for another great demo practice!!! He is truly inspirational to all chemistry demo volunteers, and brings with him great showmanship and very creative demo ideas every year! Ed and Jackie are currently looking for someone in the northern part of Cincinnati that is willing to host the demo practice this year. We



know that for some of our members it is a long commute to Summit Country Day each year, and the idea is to cycle through various locations around Cincinnati for the coming years. This would help us be more inclusive to all volunteers all over the Greater Cincinnati area. Please let us know if you are willing to host future chemistry demo practices for future NCWs.

### **Summary of Chemistry Demonstrations at Local Venues for NCW**

We had chemistry demonstrations at 18 Hamilton county libraries, 6 libraries outside Hamilton



County, the NKU SAAC group covered 6 Northern Kentucky libraries, Wilmington College coordinated 3 events on campus, and a great on-air chemistry demo on FOX19 News! We were able to reach out to well over 500 kids in the local community at all the local venues!

Volunteers this year included Sue Buescher, Ed Escudero, Deena Carey, Gloria Story, Supaporn Kradtap Hartwell, Kristi Fliter, George Rizzi, Susan Hershberger, Rolf Hahne, Will Huber, Olubolaji Akinterinwa, Xuefei Guo, Daoli Zhao,

Usoshi Chatterjee, Hong Zhang, Jamie Titus, Laurie Breyfogle, Barbara Alexander, Steve Heinzman, Donna Wiedemann, Bill Crawford, David Wilson, Eric Johnson, Jackie Thomas, Xavier Students coordinated by Mary Stroud and Barbara Hopkins, Seven Hills students coordinated by Linda Ford, Miami Chemical Society Students coordinated by Casey Babbitt, Wilimgton College Students (Jennifer Wilson, Darlyne Crawford, Jacob Barrett, Jesica Veite, Laine Mallin, Katylin Slack, Jessica Fraley, James Turner, Grace Thomson, Britainy Rose, Nate Godby, Anna Foote, Samuel Smith) Coordinated by Alfred R. Conklin, Jr, Dore Meinholtz, Michael Goldcamp, Melo-dee Freder-



ick, and the NKU ACSSA (Erica Amato, Tony Bankemper, Rachel Bishop, Kara Chan, Jennifer Dusing, Tracey Daugherty, Christina Duffy, Ashley Estepp, Steven Edwards, Derek Gibbs, Adam Gottula, Jenny Hand, Denise Hickson, Marilyn Henry, Lana Karasiova, Chad Maschinot, Adam McCallum, Melissa Oerhle, Katilyn Sullivan, Katelyn Sullivan, Samantha Sutkamp, Wil Talbert, Clay Winslow, Alex Yarawsky) coordinated by Patrick Hare. Also, a special thanks to photographers that helped out this this year, Mia Escudero an alumna of Summit Country Day & U. of Missouri, Columbia, and Jennifer Wilson of Wimlington College.

A special thanks to Tessa Woodruff, Maimi Chemical Society, and Ed von Bargen, P&G, who performed a LIVE ON-AIR chemistry demonstration this year! This segment was featured on FOX 19 News! The segment was aired on Octo-



ber 19<sup>th</sup> and highlighted the joint efforts of the Cincinnati ACS section and the libraries in the local community celebration of NCW. Thank you to Emily Baute, Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Relations, for coordinating this segment for us! If you missed the segment and want to see our two volunteers in action visit, http://www.fox19.com/category/195974/video-landing-page?

autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=6361203, to see the video.

Summary of Chemistry Demonstrations at the Cincinnati Museum Center for NCW Gloria Story led a great team at the CMC this year during NCW. Please see her summary of the CMC in the IYC report.

Thank you to those who worked on NCW this year! We know our volunteers could not be out there in the local community without the liquid nitrogen, dry ice, other supplies, supportive businesses, bosses, co-workers, families, and friends. Thank you for the great community effort, and as always, we will do it again next year! If you were involved and your name was unintentionally omitted, let us know; we do thank you and we will mention your name in our next issue. If you would like to join the fun next year, please let us know and watch for announcements next summer.

Reported by **Jackie Thomas** 

## Congratulations Laurie Breyfogle – Inaugural Rising Star Award Winner

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 2011— The Women Chemists Committee (WCC) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has established the WCC Rising Star Award, to recognize exceptional mid-career women chemists across all areas of chemistry on a national level. To be given annually, beginning in 2012, this new award is also intended to help promote retention of women in science. One of the inaugural winners is our own Dr. Laurie E. Breyfogle of Procter & Gamble. Laurie has been an active member, assisting with National Chemistry Week for the past several years. Other winners are shown below:

### 2012 WCC Rising Star Award Winners (alphabetical by state)

- Dr. Annaliese K. Franz of Davis, Calif., University of California, Davis
- Dr. Sarah E. Reisman of San Marino, Calif., California Institute of Technology
- Dr. Malika Jeffries-El of Ames, Iowa, Iowa State University
- Dr. Lisa Regalla of Minneapolis, Minn., DragonflyTV SciGirls
- Dr. Gretchen Schroeder of Ewing, N.J., Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Dr. Laurie E. Breyfogle of Milford, Ohio, Procter & Gamble
- Dr. Christine M. Ingersoll of Allentown, Pa., Muhlenberg College
- Dr. Karin Balss of Spring House, Pa., Johnson & Johnson
- Dr. Megan Bourg Sassin of Fredericksburg, Va., Naval Research Laboratory
- Dr. Julia Laskin of Richland, Wash., Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Recent data show that in 2008, women earned 50 percent of Bachelor's degrees and 36 percent of Doctoral degrees in chemistry. However, the Commerce Department's Economics & Statistics Administration recently reported that although women make up 48 percent of the total U.S. workforce, they represent only 24 percent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobholders, with only 26 percent of women with STEM degrees in STEM jobs. The research also shows that women at the middle level of their science and technology based careers are leaving the chemical enterprise in large numbers, creating a "leaky pipeline." According to "Climbing the Technical Ladder: Obstacles and Solutions for Mid-Level Women in Technology," a significant number (29 percent) of women are planning to leave their mid-level positions at technology companies in the next twelve months to pursue other options."We may be making progress in terms of encouraging women into STEM fields, with higher numbers achieving both Bachelors and Doctoral degrees," said Nancy Jackson, Ph.D., President of the American Chemical Society, "but the actual number of women in mid-career positions continues to decline. I am pleased to see the WCC address this important issue and the WCC Rising Star Award gives us another opportunity to highlight successful women chemists and help promote retention in the chemical enterprise."

As part of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for the WCC next year, the inaugural winners will be acknowledged during a symposium to highlight their work on Monday, March 26, 2012, at the 243<sup>rd</sup> nation

### Cincinnati Section is on Facebook

The new Facebook page for the Cincinnati Section of the ACS is up and running. As mentioned in the previous issue, this site will be used for sharing accomplishments and networking amongst the membership. For example, you can check out pictures from recent meetings on the site. If you are already on Facebook, find the section page, "like" us and recommend us to your colleagues and friends. If you have something you would like to share (a recent publication, funded grant, promotion, birth, wedding, etc...), email the section chair, Rick Mullins, at <a href="mullinsr@xavier.edu">mullinsr@xavier.edu</a> and this page will be used to share these important happenings in the lives of section members. Additionally, you can follow us on Twitter for similar announcements (@Cincinnati\_ACS). The section will continue to maintain the website (<a href="http://www.acscincinnati.org">http://www.acscincinnati.org</a>) for major announcements, including upcoming meetings.





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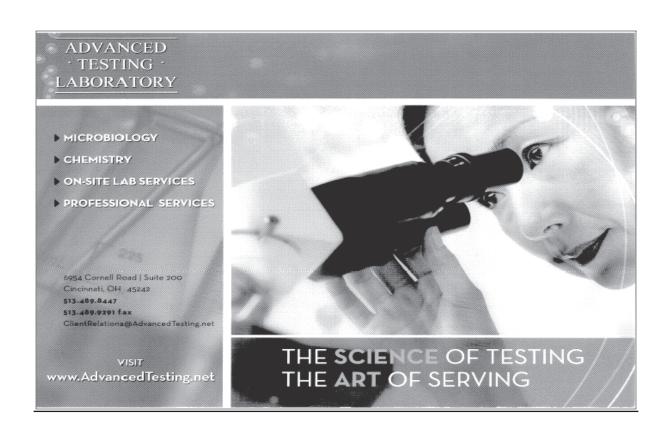
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