vol. 20

Periodical

Canisius Chemistry and Biochemistry Newsletter • Fall 2026

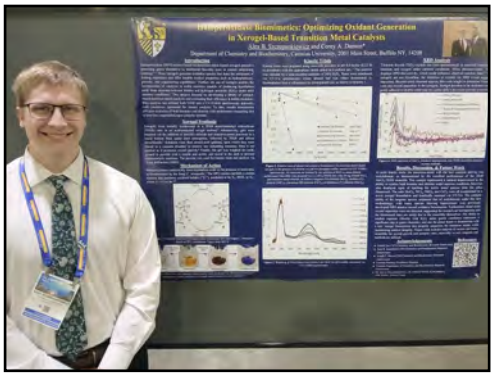
ACS Spring National Meeting, Atlanta

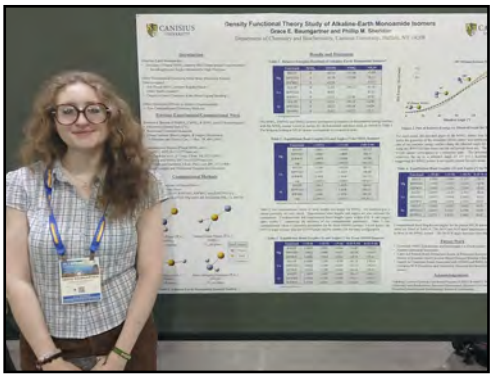


Canisius Students and Faculty at the ACS Spring National Meeting

The Canisius Chemistry and Biochemistry Department was well-represented at the 271st National American Chemical Society Meeting. Seven students working on chemistry and biochemistry research projects supervised by five faculty in the Department attended the meeting, held March 22 − 26 in Atlanta, GA. The meeting celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Chemical Society. The theme was *Collaborate, Innovate, and Transform*. At the meeting, the students presented eight posters on their research work (see page 8 for more information). In addition, the students and faculty had the opportunity to attend the Joseph Priestly Medal Award address given by Prof. Jennifer Doudna of the University of California, Berkeley, describing her career journey and research work in biochemistry. Prof. Doudna was a recipient of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry "for the development of a method for genome editing." Funding for students to attend the meeting was provided by the Paul G. Gassman Endowment Fund.







(left to right) Emily Barry ('27), Alex Szczepankiewicz ('26), and Grace Baumgartner ('26) present their research posters.

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A Message from the Chair



Greetings to all Griffin Chemists, Biochemists, Physicists and Engineers! I hope this edition of the newsletter finds each of you and your families healthy and well.

This past year again saw much change for the Department. At the end of the spring semester and during the summer, physics and pre-engineering returned home to Horan O'Donnell (HO), after spending the last decade in Science Hall. The physics and pre-engineering labs are now housed on the first floor of HO and the biochemistry lab was moved upstairs to the second floor of HO. New paint and lighting have provided a clean refresh to these spaces. Also, Prof. Tim Gregg's research space in HO 211 is now fully air-conditioned! The Biology Department moved to the basement and first floor of Science Hall, complete with newly renovated teaching and research lab spaces. As the final step, ROTC moved to the basement of HO.

Starting this summer, the physics and pre-engineering programs joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Mike Wood, Professor of Physics and Director of the Pre-Engineering Program, is now a member of the Department faculty. In addition to teaching classes in physics and engineering, Prof. Wood leads an undergraduate focused research program in nuclear physics. More information about his work can be found on page 3. We welcome Prof. Wood and all of the physics and engineering alumni to the Department!

Prof. Pete Schaber and Prof. Tim Gregg have announced their plans to retire from the faculty at the end of the 2026 − 2027 academic year. Prof. Schaber has been a member of the Department for 44 years and will fully retire at the end of the Spring 2027 semester. Prof. Gregg has been a member of the Department for 22 years and will continue on in a half-time appointment for the next three years as part of the Faculty Resource Program. We are very grateful to Profs. Schaber and Gregg for their many years of service to the Department and the University. Please save the date for their retirement party, which will be held at this year's SCACS end-of year banquet (see page 5 for more information). I hope you will be able to attend this celebration!

Please stay an active part of the Canisius Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, and Engineering family by letting us know how you are doing. Always know that we are proud of everything you have accomplished.

Thank you for your continued support of the Department.

Phil Sheridan, Professor and Department Chair

Faculty & Staff

Phillip Sheridan, Ph.D.
Chair, Physical Chemistry
Co-Editor, *Periodical*

Allyson Backstrom, Ph.D.
Director, Pre-Health Center
Organic Chemistry

Timothy Gregg, Ph.D.
Organic Chemistry

Kristina Marohn, M.S.
General Chemistry Laboratory

Mary O'Sullivan, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita

Peter Schaber, Ph.D.
Analytical Chemistry

Jaime Sheridan, Ph.D.
Director of Chemistry Laboratories
Co-Editor, *Periodical*

Steven Szczepankiewicz, Ph.D.
Analytical/Inorganic Chemistry

Michael Wood, Ph.D.
Physics and Pre-Engineering

Join the Department on LinkedIn:

Visit the Department online at:

Contact the Department at:
sheridap@canisius.edu

Physics and Pre-Engineering Join the Department

Physics and Pre-Engineering have found a new home on the first floor of Horan O'Donnell. Mike Wood, Professor of Physics and Director of the Pre-Engineering program, and his colleagues spent the summer transforming HO 102, HO 104, and other first floor areas into new physics and pre-engineering laboratories. This fall, the physics and pre-engineering faculty have ecstatically welcomed students into these new spaces. Physics and pre-engineering are now part of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.



Physics and Pre-Engineering Faculty (left to right): Jon Mrowczynski, M.S. ('16), Teaching Faculty; Christine Colson, M.S. ('16), Adjunct Professor; Michael Wood, Ph.D., Professor

Prof. Wood's research involves proton formation and dark matter detection at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (jlab.org) in Newport News, Virginia. He is a member of the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) Large Acceptance Spectrometer (CLAS) Collaboration.

Proton hadronization occurs when quarks combine through the strong nuclear force to form protons. The CLAS Collaboration's Run Group E experiment at Jefferson Lab uses the CLAS12 spectrometer and an 11 GeV electron beam to study how nuclear size affects this process.

Prof. Wood analyzes proton production across different kinematic conditions to investigate whether protons form through pre-existing diquarks (correlated quark pairs) rather than conventional single-quark fragmentation, advancing our understanding of how quarks assemble into protons.

Prof. Wood also collaborates on the Beam Dump eXperiment (BDX) at Jefferson Lab, which aims to detect dark matter, hypothetical particles that could make up some or all of the unseen matter inferred from galactic rotation curves and cosmology. Theoretically, dark matter would be produced with an 11 GeV electron beam. The beam strikes a dump, potentially generating dark photons that decay into dark-matter particles. These particles could pass through shielding and produce detectable signals in a downstream calorimeter. The prototype, BDX-MINI, has demonstrated the technique and shown that beam-related and cosmic-ray backgrounds can be controlled.



Prof. Wood at Jefferson Lab





Prof. Wood and students in the new General Physics Laboratory

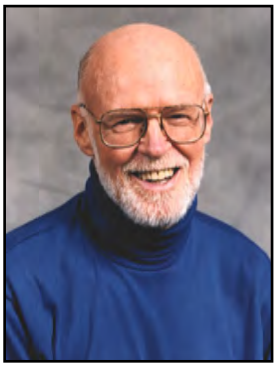
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Peter Schaber Receives ACS Schoellkopf Award



Prof. Pete Schaber is the 96th recipient of the Jacob F. Schoellkopf Medal, given by the Western New York Local Section of the American Chemical Society (WNY ACS). The award, first given in 1931, is named for Jacob F. Schoellkopf, Sr., who founded the National Aniline Works. The Schoellkopf Medal is the oldest ACS local section award in the nation. Prof. Schaber was selected for the 2026 Schoellkopf Award, "in recognition of 51 years of dedicated leadership and service to the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society, and for outstanding contributions as a researcher, colleague, and mentor to generations of scientists in academia and industry throughout Western New York." Prof. Schaber has served in several leadership roles in the WNY ACS, including Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chair. He has served as a Councilor for the past 32 years.

Frank J. Dinan Teaching Endowment Established



The Department is proud to announce that the Frank J. Dinan Chemistry and Biochemistry Teaching Endowment Fund has been officially established. $58,500 has been donated to date to establish this Endowed Fund, surpassing our initial goal of $50,000. The fund honors the legacy of Prof. Frank Dinan, who taught and developed improved pedagogical approaches to teaching courses in organic chemistry at Canisius for 45 years. The endowment currently supports chemistry and biochemistry majors serving as teaching assistants in lecture and laboratory courses as well as travel to conferences focused on innovative teaching pedagogy. The Department is very grateful to the many alumni and friends who contributed to this fund. Please consider giving to the Dinan Teaching Endowment fund online or by using the form included with this newsletter and help us reach our next fundraising goal of $100,000!

Department Scholarships 2025-26

Joseph F. Bieron, Ph.D. ('59) Scholarship: *Matthew Wass (CHM '26)*
Austin V. & Lillian J. Signeur Scholarship: *Matthew Wass (CHM '26) and John Scalisi (CHM HT and BIO '27)*
Eileen Hogenkamp Klubek ('90) Scholarship: *Emily Barry (CHM ACS '27)*
Manzo Family Scholarship: *Madison Barker (BCH '28)*
James G. Colson, Ph.D. ('58) Scholarship: *Julie Heard (CHM HT '26)*
Gerald Zon, Ph.D. ('67) Scholarship: *Kylie Badawy (BCH ACS '26) and Grace Baumgartner (BCH '26)*

Recent Donors to Chemistry & Biochemistry

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those listed here who have made a recent financial gift to the Department:

Andrew Erdman ('22); Jesse Fodero, M.D. ('13); David Fortman, Ph.D. ('13); Jamie Hitro ('13); Christopher Mekelburg ('10); Kristina Garcia, PharmD. ('08); Elizabeth Brem, M.D. ('06); Jeffrey, Ph.D. ('03) & Lindsay Rose, Ph.D.; Muris Kobaslija, Ph.D. ('02); Ronald Szumigala, Jr. ('98); Lingyun Chen ('95); Brian, M.D. ('92) & Nina ('92) Riegel; Mark Nowak ('92); James Pawlow, Ph.D. ('92); James Shattuck, Ph.D. ('92); Christopher Kane, Ph.D. ('90); Kristen Kulinowski, Ph.D. ('90); Gregory Agoston, Ph.D. ('89); Janet Miles ('89); Michael ('85) & Maria ('88) Sullivan; Robert and Elaine Elkington ('87); Thomas & Margaret Steffan ('83); John, M.D. ('82) & Gail ('82) Zvijac; Robert Kolarczyk, M.D. ('78); Mary Spohn ('78); Jonathan Stoberl ('78); Maureen Leland ('76); Edward ('75) & Mary Bogdan ('77); Michael Cubera ('75); Ronald Krol ('75); Peter Schaber, Ph.D. ('75); Susan Theeman ('75); James Tricoli, Ph.D. ('75); David G. Hangauer, Jr., Ph.D. ('74); David Nalewajek, Ph.D. ('74); Daniel Rega ('74); Amanda Evans ('73); Jan A. Nowak, M.D., Ph.D. ('73); Walter ('72) & Sharon ('73) Garrow; Teresa Amabile, Ph.D. ('72);

Tim Gregg and Pete Schaber Retirementfest!











Make sure to save the date, **Friday May 14, 2026,** to celebrate the retirements of Tim Gregg and Pete Schaber! More information will be sent by mail in February/March 2027. We hope you will be able to attend this once in a lifetime event!

Canisius NMR Collaboration

The Department's NMR facility is critical to research that requires a detailed understanding of organic molecular structure. Canisius students and faculty routinely take advantage of the Agilent 400's outstanding resolution and ease of use for H and C atom spectroscopy to support organic synthesis research. The Canisius NMR facility is also a valuable resource for researchers in the Department of Biochemistry at UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Science. Layne Jensen, a graduate student in the laboratory of D. Fernando Estrada has recently published a paper in *Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics*, where key ^{19}F NMR data were collected using the Canisius instrument. This most recent project on Vitamin D3 oxidation by a rare soil microbe employed 4-hour acquisition times on cytochrome P450 enzyme samples bearing genetically engineered ^{19}F labeled amino acid positions. This is the 5th paper Prof. Estrada's group has published over the 7 years they have been using the Canisius NMR facility. --TG



Canisius 400 MHz NMR

Michael Darby, Ph.D. ('72); Paul ('72) & Marjorie Inderbitzen ('72); Michael Krajewski ('72); Robert Lynch ('72); Paul Piciulo, Ph.D. ('72); David Zvijac, Ph.D. ('72); Stanley Zak, Jr., D.D.S. ('72); William Bogdan ('71); Edmund D'Orazio, M.D. ('71); Kristine Lohr, M.D. ('71); Steven Driska, Ph.D. ('70); Gregory Krawczyk ('70); Philip Ostrowski ('69); James Bartel, Ph.D. ('68); Peter Nowakowski, Ph.D. ('68); Leonard Marabella, Ph.D. ('68); Joseph Rozak ('68); Stanley Sojka, Ph.D. ('68); Thomas Stabler ('68); Gerald Wilemski, Ph.D. ('68); Simon Ulmer, Jr., Ph.D. ('67); John Wieser, Ph.D. ('67); Gerald Zon, Ph.D. ('67); Matthew O'Hara ('66); Dennis Bakalik, Ph.D. ('65); William Geiger Jr., Ph.D. ('65); Joseph Kuczkowski, Ph.D. ('63); Kenneth Pompi, Ph.D. ('63); Raymond Lange, Ph.D ('61); Robert Schuder, M. D. ('61); David Teloh ('61); James Maul, Ph.D. ('60); Robert Kuczkowski, Ph.D. ('60); David Skelly, Ph.D. ('60); Robert Czaja, Ph.D. ('58); Lori Barry; Michael & Colleen Becht; Lisa Marie & Edward Caiola, Ph.D.; Mary Theresa A. Colson; Drs. Raymond & Mary Anne Dannenhoffer; Michael Inglisa; Maria & Boyd Kardash; James Leone, Ph.D.; Mary O'Sullivan, Ph.D.; Paul & Nina Powers; Phil Sheridan, Ph.D.; Jeremy Steinbacher, Ph.D.

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Class of 2026

Mmesoma Anamege (BCH): Associate Scientist, Cancer Diagnostics Department, Abbott Laboratories

Grace Baumgartner BCH): Ph.D. Program in Chemistry, University at Buffalo

Kylie Badawy (CHM ACS): Ph.D. Program in Chemistry, University at Buffalo

Evan Folsom (BCH): M.S. Program in Bioethics, Harvard University

Julie Heard (CHM HT)

Christian Lates (BCH)

Alex Szczepankiewicz (CHM ACS): Ph.D. Program in Chemistry, University at Buffalo

Trinity Walbesser (BCH): Pharmacy School, University at Buffalo

Cory Walck (BCH): Medical School, University at Buffalo

Matthew Wass (CHM)





Senior Awards

V.A. Ruskiewicz ('21) Award: Recognition of superlative academic achievement demonstrated by the highest GPA.

Western New York Chapter of the American Chemical Society Student General Excellence Award: Highest award given by the Department; acknowledges outstanding achievement and research accomplishments.

American Institute of Chemists Award: Recognition on the basis of a demonstrated record in leadership, ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions.

Gerald Zon ('67) Undergraduate Research Award: Recognizes significant research accomplishments.

Kylie Badawy:
V.A. Ruszkiewicz Award
ACS Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award
ACS Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award

Grace Baumgartner:
WNY ACS General Excellence Award in Biochemistry
Gerald Zon Research Award

Evan Folsom:
American Institute of Chemists Biochemistry Award
ACS Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award
Gerald Zon Research Award

Julie Heard:
V.A. Ruszkiewicz Award
WNY ACS General Excellence Award in Chemistry

Alex Szczepankiewicz:
American Institute of Chemists Chemistry Award
ACS Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award
Gerald Zon Research Award

Cory Walck:
ACS Biochemistry and Chemical Biology Undergraduate Award
Gerald Zon Research Award

Matt Wass:
Gerald Zon Research Award

Seminar Speakers

During the Spring 2026 semester the Department hosted five speakers as part of the CHM 481 senior seminar course.

Prof. Sarah Bowman, Department of Biochemistry, University at Buffalo and Director of the National Crystallization Center at Hauptman Woodward Institute, *Charting New Territory in Biochemistry with X-Ray Crystallography*

Prof. David Heppner, Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo, *Structure-Forward Studies of EGFR Inhibitors and their Impact on Drug Discovery*

Xavier Krull (CHM ACS '21), graduate student in the Ph.D. Program in Chemistry, Northwestern University, *Exploring the Boundaries of Linker Exchange Reactions in Zeolitic Imidazolate Frameworks*

Jennifer Sescil (BCH ACS '21), graduate student in the Ph.D. Program in Chemistry and Life Sciences Institute, University of Michigan, *Protein-Based Tools for Monitoring Biological Processes*

Salvatore Zarrella (CHM HT '20), graduate student in the Ph.D. Program in Chemistry, Syracuse University, *Characterizing Organic Gunshot Residues using Low-Frequency Raman and Terahertz Spectroscopies*

Department News

The American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training has recommended continued accreditation of the chemistry and biochemistry programs. The current accreditation continues through 2031.

Canisius has launched of a new six-year BS/MD Accelerated Pathway to MD (APMD) in partnership with Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM). The partnership establishes a direct route for students to earn a B.S. degree in Chemistry and an M.D. degree in only six years.

A new 4+2 partnership with Syracuse University gives Canisius chemistry and biochemistry majors a direct acceptance route to a 2-year M.S. in chemical or biomedical engineering degree at Syracuse.

Canisius has partnered with the Department of Biochemistry at UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Science to give chemistry and biochemistry majors a direct acceptance route to the 2-year M.S. in Biochemistry.

Cory Walck (BCH '26) is one of four first year medical students at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine to be selected for the Buffalo Primary Care Initiative. This new initiative aims to increase the number of family doctors in the City of Buffalo, helping to address a critical need for underserved populations in the city. The program is accelerated, leading to an MD degree in three years. In exchange for full-tuition scholarships, students in the program pledge to stay and practice in primary care in Buffalo for at least 5 years following residency.

David Skelly, Ph.D. (CHM '60) passed away peacefully at home in Burnt Hills, New York, this past March. After completing his undergraduate work at Canisius, he earned a Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame. David spent 40 years as a research scientist at General Electric, securing 17 patents for his work in metallurgy and chemical deposition. David was a generous, long-time supporter of the Department's undergraduate research program.

Department Publications/Presentations

A. C. Erdman, **B. T. Russ**, and P. M. Sheridan, "Computational Study of [Al, N, C, S] Isomers: Electronic Structure and Bonding Analysis, "*ACS Omega*, **2025**, 10, 58264-58274.

A. B. Szczepankiewicz, **J. A. Pivarunas**, and C. Damon, "Enhancing Biochemistry Education Through Movement-Based Learning: Investigating Oxygen Delivery Using Personal Health Data, "*ACS Omega,* **2025**, 10, 62675–62682.

P. Achenbach, M. Wood, et al., "A Beam dump Facility at Jefferson Lab," *Eur. Phys. J. A*, **2025**, 61, 285.

M. H. Wood et al. (BDX Collaboration) "The Light Mass Dark Matter Search with the BDX Experiment at Jefferson Lab", APS Division of Particles and Fields Meeting, Fermilab, Batavia, IL, July 20-24, 2026.

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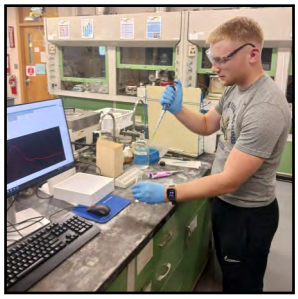
Chemistry and Biochemistry Research Fellows

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Summer Research Program is supported by annual gifts and revenue generated by research endowments established and funded by alumni and friends of the Department.

Joseph F. Bieron ('59) Research Fellow: Mercy Pignataro (BIO '27)
Emil R. Inderbitzen Research Fellow: Erin McMaster (BCH '29)
Sigmund T. ('41) and Rose M. Kaszuba Research Fellow: Meadow Mitchell (BCH '29)
Paul J. McCarthy, S.J. Research Fellow: Julie Gruber (BCH '29)
Richard E. Stanton Research Fellow: Emily Barry (CHM ACS '27)
Gerald Zon ('67) Research Fellows: John Scalisi (CHM HT & BIO '27) and Allison Chugh (BCH '27)



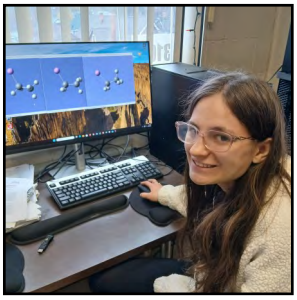
Mercy Pignataro



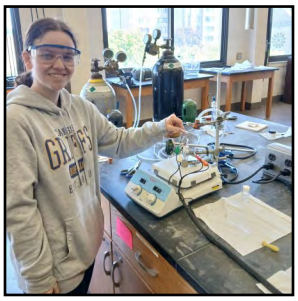
John Scalisi



Meadow Mitchell



Emily Barry



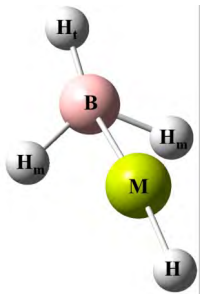
Erin McMaster



Allison Chugh



Julie Gruber



ACS Spring National Meeting Posters/Presentations

M. Wass and P. Sheridan "Computational Hyperfine Parameters for Alkali Metal Monomethyls and Monoethyls"

G. Baumgartner and P. Sheridan "Density Functional Theory Study of Alkaline-Earth Monoamide Isomers"

E. Barry and S. Szczepankiewicz "Reduced Transition Metal Substituted Polytungstates in Nonpolar Environments"

E. Folsom and T. Gregg "Synthesis Steps Towards the Tetrasubstituted Aromatic Core of a Dihydroisocoumarin Natural Product"

C. Walck and P. Sheridan "Density Functional Theory Study of Alkaline-Earth Metal Borohydride Isomers"

A. Szczepankiewicz and C. Damon "Enhancing Biochemistry Education Through Movement-Based Learning: Investigating the Bohr Effect Using Personal Health Data"

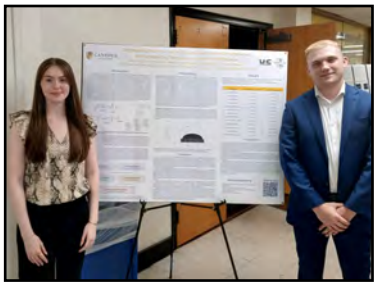
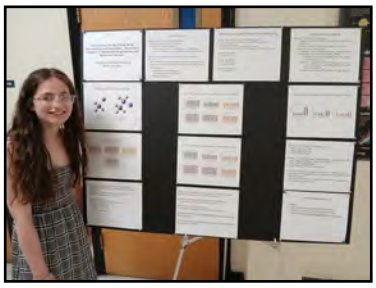
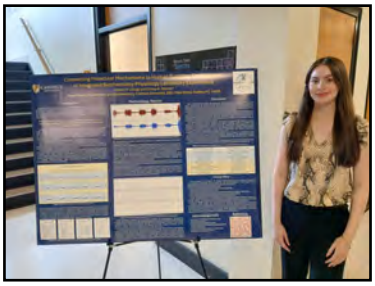
A. Szczepankiewicz and C. Damon "Haloperoxidase Biomimetics: Optimizing Oxidant Generation in Xerogel-Based Transition Metal Catalysts" **I.M. Kolthoff Enrichment Award in Analytical Chemistry**

C. Zarafonitis and P. Schaber "Lead in Shore Samples Along the Buffalo River"

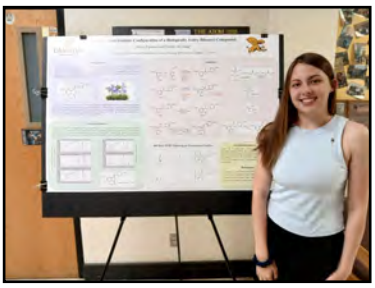
P. Sheridan, S. Szczepankiewicz and P. Schaber "Using Machine Learning to Predict Student Success in the First Semester of General Chemistry at Canisius University"

Joseph F. Bieron Summer Research Symposium

On Friday, July 17, the Department hosted its 10th annual Bieron Summer Research Symposium. Eleven students presented posters describing their research results. We hope to see you at next year's symposium on Friday, **July 16, 2027**.




A. Chugh, J. Scalisi, A. Szczepankiewicz and K. Badaway (C. Damon) "Engineering Multifunctional Xerogel Coatings for Simultaneous Hydrophobicity, Transparency, and Fire Resistance"

J. Scalisi (C. Damon) "From Molecules to Mission: Integrating Field Based Biochemistry, Ignatian Pedagogy, and Creation Care"

A. Chugh (C. Damon) "Connecting Molecular Mechanisms to Human Function: Development of Integrated Biochemistry-Physiology Laboratory Experiences"

M. Pignatoro (T. Gregg) "Synthesis and Absolute Configuration of Biologically Active Bibenzyl Compound"

M. Mitchell and C. Walck (P. Sheridan) "Computational Chemistry Study of Alkaline-Earth Metal MB_4 Isomers: Atoms in Molecules (AIM) Bonding Analysis"

M. Mitchell, J. Gruber and G. Baumgartner (P. Sheridan) "Examining the Relationship Between Protein Properties and Crystallization Conditions Using Data Analytics"

E. Barry and M. Wass (P. Sheridan) "Computational Chemistry Study Of Alkali Metal Monomethyls and Monoethyls: Dissociation Energies, C-C Rotational Energy Barriers and Rotational Constants"

J. Gruber, A. Szczepankiewicz and C. Lates (P. Sheridan) "Computational Chemistry Study of [Mg, C, O, O, H] Isomers: Confirmation and Identification of Transition States"

E. McMaster (S. Szczepankiewicz) "Transition Metal Substituted Heteropolytungstates May Not Survive Reduction"

N. Nwagwu (M. Wood) "Machine Learning for Unbinned Unfolding in Nuclear Physics"

M. Bisbal (M. Wood) "Studies of omega Meson Formation"

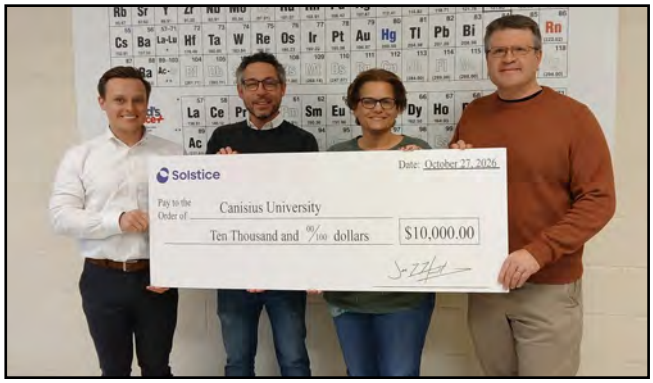
A. Almashiahy (M. Wood) "Research on Hadronization"

S. Ezenagu (M. Wood) "RG-E Proton Identification with Iguana and ROOT"

Chemistry Olympiad

Krit Marohn and Prof. Sherry Chemler (UB) continue to serve as the co-coordinators of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) for the WNY American Chemical Society local section. Once again they invited all public, private, and home school students in high school, 18 years old or younger residing in the WNY area, to participate in the local Chemistry Olympiad exam.

The 2026 local exam was administered on February 28th at the University at Buffalo. There were 35 participants. The exam included 60 multiple choice questions covering General and Organic Chemistry. The top seven students were invited to participate in the 2026 National Exam which was administered at Canisius University on April 11th. This exam included 60 multiple choice questions, 8 explanation questions, and 2 laboratory practical experiments covering topics in General Chemistry. The top three student scores in WNY were from Williamsville East High School (1), East Aurora High School (2), and Amherst Central High School (3). The International Chemistry Olympiad was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, July 10th—19th.



Rob Stewart, Ph.D. ('11) and Jon Herdlein (Solstice), Krit Marohn, and Phil Sheridan

Funding to support the 2027 Chemistry Olympiad in WNY is being provided by Solstice Advanced Materials (formerly Honeywell International Buffalo Research Labs) and the Walter Kosiba, PhD ('43) Chemistry Olympiad Endowment Fund. --KM

Visit to Hauptman-Woodward

In April, chemistry and biochemistry majors visited the National Crystallization Center and the Cryo-Electron Microscopy Center at UB Hauptman Woodward Institute in Buffalo. Prof. Sarah Bowman, Director of the National Crystallization Center, led the students on a tour through the facilities. The students learned about the process of high-throughput protein crystallization condition screening.





WNY ACS Undergraduate Symposium

Canisius Undergraduates also presented their research posters at the 2026 WNY ACS Undergraduate Symposium, hosted by Niagara University on March 28th.

A. Szczepankiewicz and C. Damon "Haloperoxidase Biomimetics: Xerogel-Sequestered Transition Metal Catalysts for the Oxidation of Aqueous Halides"

E. Folsom and T. Gregg "Synthesis Steps Towards the Tetrasubstituted Aromatic Core of a Dihydroisocoumarin Natural Product"



Student Chapter of the ACS

This year marked another memorable chapter for the Canisius SCACS, filled with opportunities for members to connect and strengthen the community within the organization. Throughout the year, the chapter continued to grow while creating a welcoming environment that balanced academics, friendship, and involvement.

2025-26 SCACS Executive Board

President: Evan Folsom ('26)
Vice President: Kylie Badawy ('26)
Secretary: Christina Zarafonitis ('26)
Treasurer: Mercy Pignataro ('27)
Historian: Cory Walk ('26)
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Tim Gregg











The 2025–2026 academic year was a busy and exciting one for the ACS Student Chapter! During the Fall semester, members took on the Sky High Adventure Park ropes course, competed at Lasertron and flag football, celebrated Mole Day, enjoyed an ice cream social, and wrapped up the semester with our annual Christmas party. We also held general body meetings throughout the semester to catch up, share upcoming events, and spend time together. In the Spring semester, the fun continued with the ACS National Meeting, volleyball, painting, bowling, and our end-of-the-year banquet. From chemistry-focused experiences to simply having fun together, this year gave us plenty of opportunities to make memories, build friendships, and grow as a chapter. We're so thankful to everyone who joined us along the way and made the year such a great one! -- SCACS E-Board





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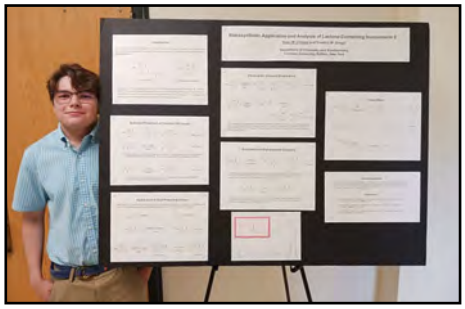
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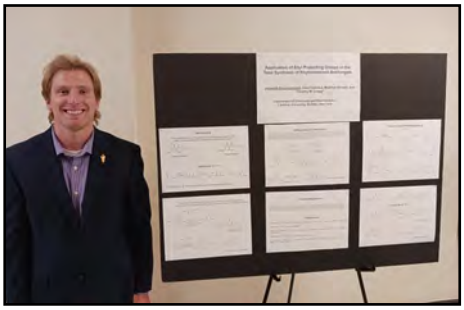
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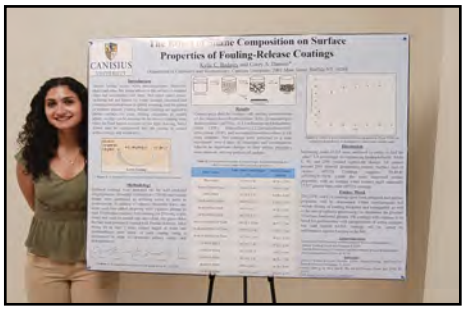
The Department is incredibly grateful for the generous financial support it receives annually from its alumni and supporters. The endowed funds created from your donations allow us to continue our student research program. They also provide funding for student teaching opportunities, research supplies and instrumentation, student stipends, research facilities, and travel to meetings to present and learn about the latest research results. These experiences are major strengths of our program and enable our students to gain acceptance to prestigious graduate programs, medical, dental, and pharmacy schools, as well as enter the work force right after graduation. Please consider giving specifically to one of the Department endowed funds, using the included form or online, so that we can continue to provide these opportunities to the newest Canisius chemistry and biochemistry majors.



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M.S. in Bioethics Program



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