

Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS)
Meeting Minutes: Meeting #2: 10-1-03

Introduction:

- The president Andrew Lauer discussed grade release forms for student life in addition to the roster for presenting at libraries for national chemistry week. If you have not filled out a grade release form for student life, please do so and turn it into student life or to one of the officers. We can get money from them!
- Dr. Walters discussed national chemistry week. The main topic of national chemistry week this year is chemistry of the atmosphere. Also, it was discussed that we should set up a table in the science center during national chemistry week.
- The times and places for the national chemistry week demonstrations are:

October 21 @ 3:30PM at the Newport branch of the Campbell Co. Public Library
November 4 @ 7:00PM at the Walton branch of the Boone Co. Public Library

Also, demonstrations will be held on the NKU campus, which will likely be either on Wed. 10/22 @ 2:30 or Thu. 10/23 @ 2:00 in room SC 308.

- The vice president Shelly Stamper passed around the committee sign up sheets for those who would like to help arrange speakers to come to the meetings. Contact the officers or the advisors if you are interested.

Dr. Kempton's discussion on graduate school:

- Myths about graduate school:

Graduate school costs a tremendous amount of money.

-Wrong! Graduate school costs nothing. Actually, depending on the University you would probably make somewhere between \$17,000-\$20,000 a year while attending graduate school.

You need a 4.0 GPA in order to get into a graduate school.

-Wrong! You don't need a 4.0 GPA in order to get into most graduate schools, however having an outstanding GPA helps. On the other hand, undergraduate research is held in high esteem by graduate schools. Importantly, Northern Kentucky University offers many research opportunities, check them out @ <http://www.nku.edu/~chemistry/research.html>

- Some responsibilities in graduate school: You would probably be responsible for about 20 undergraduate students in a chemistry lab, such as CHE 120 or

CHE 310. You would probably assist faculty members in grading exams. Also, during the last 2 years of graduate school you would most likely do “just” research, which is chosen by *you* and a faculty member. Also, you would have most of your course work finished within a year and you would not have to take any general requirement classes.

- The real goal of graduate school: “To make you a practicing chemist.”
- Should you go to graduate school?
 - Only if you like it. You have to be very curious about chemistry.
- What do you get of it?
 1. A PhD.
 2. You can teach at the college level (community colleges or universities) if you wanted to be a professor.
 3. Having a PhD. means that you are a specialist in that specific field.
 4. You can go into industry and get better jobs such as being a supervisor instead of a supervisee.
- What type of person do you have to be to have a PhD?
 - A very persuasive person; you have to write many grants in order to get funding for your research.
- Where should you go?
 - The best place that you can. The bigger places have the best and most equipment and reputation. Also, going to bigger universities allows you to meet more new people and have access to their help more readily. For more information, the U.S. news report ranks graduate schools.
- How to apply:
 - <http://www.cur.org/Ugreg/register.asp>
- Where to get info about the graduate exam:
 - NKU testing services: Phone # X6373
- Where to get graduate school exam dates:
 - <http://www.gre.org>
- Suggestions:

1. Don't wait to apply till late in your senior year. Graduate schools pick applicants by January.
2. Apply to the big and prestigious schools. What do you got to lose? All they're going to do is say "no".
3. Look at the people that you might be working with. Get on the schools website and see what their research programs look like.
4. Look at your potential advisors' history. Does he or her have a good reputation for getting their graduates good jobs?

- M.S. and B.S. degrees opposed to a PhD.
 - "It is extremely rare to find people at a directing level with just a B.S. degree."
 - "Most schools will not accept the masters degree and most companies will not hire or ask for employees to get masters degrees."