



## American Chemical Society Wichita Section

August 2011 Newsletter  
Stephen Donnelly, Editor

**Section Meeting**  
No section meeting this month

**Next Sectional Meeting**  
Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Rhatigan Student Center  
Wichita State University

**Meal (optional):** 6:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served in Rhatigan Student Center at Wichita State University. Please RSVP to Jim Bann (316-978-7373 or jim.bann@wichita.edu) by Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will take place in the same room as the meal. Mr. Bob Blackledge will present.

Wichita State University is at 1845 Fairmount, located between Hillside and Oliver running N/S, and between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> streets running E/W. A map of the WSU campus can be found at: [http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/aboutus/maps\\_and\\_directions.asp](http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/aboutus/maps_and_directions.asp)

**Speaker:** Robert (Bob) D. Blackledge

**Title:** Glitter as Forensic Evidence

*Locard's Exchange Principle* states, "Every contact leaves a trace." When these traces involve an exchange between a criminal, victim, and crime scene, there is the potential that they may help to establish a common association. Well known examples of such *trace* or *associative* evidence are hairs, fibers, paint chips, and broken glass fragments. Although not as well known, we will see that in many respects "glitter" is the ideal contact trace. Today, glitter may be found in every possible variation of

cosmetic products. Glitter is also in wide-spread use as material for arts and crafts; it is used as decorative material on items of apparel, and it is incorporated in numerous clear plastic commercial products. This presentation will tell you what glitter is; how it is made; the many ways it varies; how it may be found and collected from crime scenes and evidence items; and the many ways it can be characterized and distinguished from other glitter samples. The talk will conclude with several brief case histories (including photomicrographs and infrared spectra from the actual evidence) where glitter was important associative evidence.

### Speaker Bio:

The Wichita Section of the ACS is very pleased to have Robert (Bob) D. Blackledge as our guest speaker at the September meeting. Mr. Blackledge is a renowned expert in the area of forensics. Mr. Blackledge received his BS (chem.) from The Citadel in 1960 and his MS (chem.) from the University of Georgia in 1962. Starting with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Tallahassee Crime Lab in 1971, Bob worked in forensic science for over thirty years. Stops along the way included eleven years with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory-Europe, back during the Cold War when there was a crime lab in Frankfurt, Germany. Bob's final stint was as the Senior Chemist with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Regional Forensic Laboratory-San Diego from 1989 to 2006. The author or co-author of roughly fifty journal articles and book chapters, his interests are wide-ranging but his special passion is trace evidence. Reports of his research have been published in the FBI's Law Enforcement Bulletin, the FBI's Crime Laboratory Digest, the Journal of Forensic Sciences, Science & Justice, Forensic Science International, Forensic Science Review, Microgram Journal, and Analytica Chimica Acta. He is the editor for, "*Forensic Analysis on the Cutting Edge: New Methods for Trace Evidence Analysis*", published by Wiley-Interscience in Aug. 2007

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## Chair's Message

Hope that everyone had a productive summer! The ACS National Meeting is quickly approaching, as well as the Midwest Regional Meeting. The Midwest Regional Meeting is an excellent opportunity to highlight some of the exciting research that is going on here in Kansas, and encourage everyone to send along a student to present a poster or if they are not too shy, present a talk. The abstract deadline is August 24<sup>th</sup>, and can be submitted online at [www.mwrm2011.org](http://www.mwrm2011.org).

**Jim Bann**, Chair, ACS Wichita Section

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## Editor's Note

As noted in the April newsletter, we are in the process of updating our section's Bylaws. The current Bylaws and proposed changes were distributed in April (and can be accessed at the section's website noted below). We will vote on the changes at the meeting on Wednesday, 14 September 2011. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely, **Stephen Donnelly**, Editor

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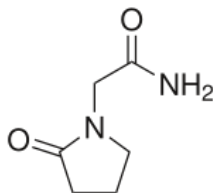
## On The Calendar...

**242<sup>nd</sup> ACS National Meeting**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
*August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>*  
**ACS Midwest Regional Meeting**  
 St. Louis, MO  
 October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

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## Molecule of the Week

Piracetam (2-oxo-1-pyrrolidineacetamide)



Piracetam is an unregistered cognition enhancer widely used to treat neurological disorders. It was sold as a dietary supplement until FDA ordered this practice to be discontinued in 2010. It remains available online and in some US stores. H. Morren reported the synthesis of piracetam in 1966. Earlier this year, D. Croker et al. reported a method to monitor the crystallization of piracetam to ensure that the desired stable polymorph is formed.

## Wichita Section Web Site:

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

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