



no.10

July 29, 2012



Catalyzer

44th International Chemistry Olympiad United States of America

Closing Ceremony

Tonight is a gold medal day! It is also a silver and bronze medal day. But more than that it is a night of friendship and congratulations. Many years have gone into our students' preparation for this IChO, and for some it will mean standing on the stage with a medal around their neck. But more importantly, everyone will be standing with new friends from around the world, and if the past is any indication, some of these friendships will last a lifetime.

The closing ceremony will be held at **Gaston Hall at Georgetown University**. At the end of the closing ceremony the USA will pass the IChO flag to Russia where the next event will be hosted.

The Farewell party (banquet) will be held at the **National Building Museum**.



Gaston Hall at Georgetown University

National Building Museum

Photo courtesy of Georgetown University



Photo courtesy of the National Building Museum

Celebrating International Excellence in Chemistry

Joseph Priestley Discoverer of Oxygen

When Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen

in 1774, he helped answer age-old questions of why and how things burn. Priestley's work disproved the longstanding belief that air—along with earth, fire and water—was one of the four elemental components of the physical world.

An Englishman by birth, Priestley was deeply involved in politics and religion, as well as science. Following a series of experiments culminating in 1774,

Priestley declared, "air is not an elementary substance, but a composition" of gases.

Within this composition was a colorless and highly reactive gas which he isolated and observed would cause a flame to burn more intensely than in normal air. Priestley called this gas "dephlogisticated air."

Antoine Lavoisier, the great French chemist, gave this gas its current name: oxygen. Priestley's discovery provided Lavoisier with an important clue to his revolutionary theory of chemical reactions.

Priestley is also credited with inventing the rubber eraser and carbonated water, which would later evolve into the soda industry.



Image courtesy of the Library of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Priestley immigrated to America in 1794 when his vocal support for the American and French revolutions made remaining in his homeland unwise. He continued his

research in the United States, where he isolated carbon monoxide and founded the Unitarian Church in the U.S.

Priestley's discovery of oxygen was designated as an International Historic Chemical Landmark in Wiltshire, England, by the American Chemical Society and Royal Society of Chemistry in 2000. Priestley's Pennsylvania home and laboratory was designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark by ACS in 1994.

Lavoisier's work was designated as an International Historic Chemical Landmark by ACS and

the Société Française de Chimie in Paris, France, in 1999. To date, more than 65 achievements in chemical science and technology in the U.S. and abroad have been recognized by the program. For more information, visit www.acs.org/landmarks.



About the American Chemical Society

Founded in 1876 and chartered by the US Congress in 1937, the ACS is the world's largest scientific society. The ACS is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemical enterprise and is the premier professional home for more than 164,000 chemists, chemical engineers and related professionals around the globe. The ACS

has more than 24,000 international members representing more than 100 countries.

ACS is a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research through its peer-reviewed journals, scientific conferences, and **Chemical Abstract Service**, the world's most comprehensive source of chemical information.

The ACS also sponsors and promotes a number of international activities, including joint conferences with national chemical societies and the **International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies (PacifiChem)**.

ACS chemistry textbooks are used around the world.

In addition, the ACS supports a number of important initiatives including:

ACS Green Chemistry Institute® promotes the implementation of green chemistry and engineering principles.

ACS Scholars Program provides gifted, under-represented minority undergraduates with scholarship and mentoring support in the chemical sciences.

Project SEED offers bright, economically disadvantaged high school students a summer opportunity to conduct chemical laboratory research.

Teacher Training provides professional development for science teachers so that they foster scientific curiosity in our nation's youth.

Petroleum Research Fund supports fundamental research and has, for the last 50 years, launched the careers of countless young scientists. More than 25 of these researchers received the Nobel Prize later in their careers.

To find out more about the ACS, visit www.acs.org

Photos from Kings Dominion



Mentors in Action

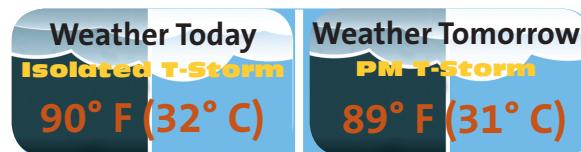


Photos by Peter Cutts Photography

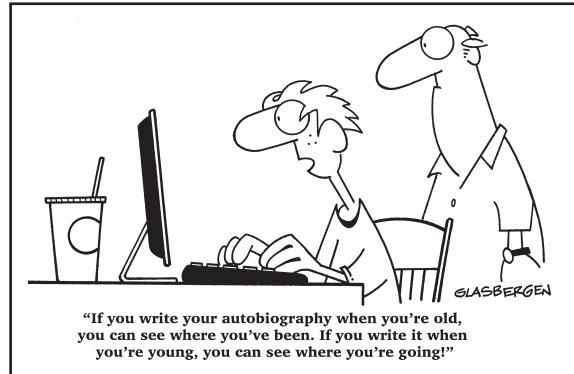
Everyone had a full day!

Sunday, July 29 Schedule

	Students	Mentors and Observers
morning	Free Time	Free Time
afternoon	Closing Ceremony/Gaston Hall Georgetown University	
night	Banquet – Farewell Party/ National Building Museum	



Congratulations! Farewell! and Travel Safely!



Q. What has been your favorite activity in the Olympiad?



Kee En
Malaysia

A. "My favorite part by far was the trip to the Arcade. I've never been anywhere like that before. We don't really have anything like this in our country. It was like stepping into a movie."

Thomas Spence
United Kingdom



A. "The tour of the monuments was quite spectacular. It wasn't just the buildings, but it was the history they represent."



Signy Pálsdóttir
Iceland

A. "The talk by the NASA astronaut was my favorite part. I never thought I would ever see an actual person who had traveled into space, and he did it three times! He was very clever and funny."



On the cover masthead: Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota is a 172 meter high rock carving that honors Crazy Horse, a legendary Native American warrior.



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