

Dear Colleagues

The 2008 Nuclear Chemistry Gordon Conference is only 7 weeks away. There is still so much to do! However I feel much secure with your support. Please register if you have not done so.

To ensure success of the conference, I'll start getting inputs and help from you with a series of emails that will address the following issues:

1. Future conference site (this email).
2. The future of Nuclear Chemistry GRC on Nuclear Reactions.
3. Logistics (e.g. organization of rides) of current meetings
4. Organization of talks, posters, discussions,
5. Organization of recreation activities and evening events.

I'll start this email with conference sites. There are two sites in Colby Sawyer College. Recently, these sites are assigned according to the number of the participants in the two meetings held simultaneously. Historically, the nuclear reaction conference has much less than 135 participants, (the magic number for a meeting to break even according to GRC office). We have not been able to compete with the other meeting, which is in the field biology or biochemistry. This year it is Cell Biology of the Neuron. Thus our meeting is assigned Site #2. The disparities between Site #1 and Site #2 are large, especially the poster and conversation areas. Site #1 is an ideal Gordon Conference site. It has a nice large hall above the dining area with ping pong tables, soft chairs and sofa, a bar and a large poster area with formal poster boards. A site most of us associate fondly with the past GRC conferences. On the other hand, the conversation area of site # 2 consists of the small lobby area outside the lecture hall. Posters are renegaded to the walls with cafeteria chairs and round tables. I have asked the Gordon Conference Office for improvements in that area but I have not gotten definite commitment.

Last year I visited another small GRC conference site (maximum participants, 120 with no competing meeting) at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. Please visit <http://www.nsl.msu.edu/~tsang/GRC/images.htm>. Click on "Bates College" for site information, and click on "Bates" for some pictures I took. Tables and chairs in the conference room can be rearranged to our liking. I am especially impressed with their poster/recreational/conversation area, which shows up with dinner tables and chairs in the pictures (They were having an Alumni conference when I visited.) That area is even better than Colby Sawyer site #1. The dorms are also more modern than that of Colby Sawyer. It has outdoor activities of hiking, biking, walking, swimming etc.

I suggest that those who feel strongly about conference site should visit Bates (3 hours drive from Colby Sawyer) before the conference. There are strong sentiments that we should not change site as the nuclear chemistry conference has been held at the same site for 56+ years. However, we should consider the possibility of changing the site especially if condition for Colby Sawyer site #1 is not improved. New sites also attract participants who want to visit new places.

Please think about the site issue. Let me know about your thoughts. I'll try to summarize what people's thoughts are with additional emails or at the conference. My next emails will discuss the future of the even-year Nuclear Chemistry GRC.

Thank you,
Betty Tsang