



ACS Local Section
Portland

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Portland Section Meeting Notice & Newsletter

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September 2019

2019 September 12 Meeting Notice

**Taking the Earth's temperature: 200 years of research
has established why the Earth is as warm as it is
and how burning fossil fuels is making it warmer**

a talk presented by

Rudy M. Baum Sr.

Science writer/editor, 2738 SW Patton Ct, Portland, OR 97201, US

E-mail: rudybaum589@gmail.com

7:45 PM Thursday September 12, 2019

Reed College Vollum Lounge

3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97202

[map](#) (use East Parking Lot; Vollum is number 37 on map)

Dinner Reservations

Dinner reservations FIRM deadline **9 AM Monday Sept. 9**

Prices increase after the deadline! (including at the door)

Schedule: 6:00 pm social • 6:45 pm buffet dinner • 7:45 talk

Portland Section webpage <http://www.acsportland.org>

[Abstract and Bio next page plus our winning ChemLuminary Project](#)

Warren Ford, Chair
(acting) Chair-Elect, Warren Ford
Scott Vanderwerf, Past Chair

Elaine Nam, Secretary
Dave Reingold, Treasurer
Angela Hoffman, Councilor

Marcie Merritt, Councilor
(Vacant), Alt. Councilor
Jim Tung, Alt. Councilor

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Abstract

Taking the Earth's temperature: 200 years of research has established why the Earth is as warm as it is and how burning fossil fuels is making it warmer.

Because of the threat of global warming due to the build-up of atmospheric carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, energy use is the central factor in creating a sustainable future. Anthropogenic climate change is real, but climate change deniers insist that carbon pollution is not a threat and that the science behind climate change is flimsy at best and a sham at worst. In fact, efforts to understand Earth's climate and why the planet's temperature is what it is date back to the early 19th century, and I review that history in this paper. Earth's atmosphere was first likened (inaccurately, as it turns out) to a greenhouse in the 1820s; CO₂ was first shown to be a greenhouse gas in the 1860s; the idea that burning fossil fuels could change the Earth's temperature was proposed in the late 19th century; the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere was first shown to be inexorably rising in the 1950s. The science of climate change has a long and distinguished pedigree.

Bio: Rudy Baum Sr.

Rudy M. Baum is the retired editor-in-chief of Chemical & Engineering News, the American Chemical Society's weekly newsmagazine.



Rudy M. Baum Sr.

Baum began his 32-year career at C&EN in 1981 as a production editor. He was the magazine's West Coast bureau head from 1982 to 1994, covering science and technology, government policy, and business topics.

Baum became C&EN's assistant managing editor for science, technology, and education coverage in 1994, the magazine's managing editor in 1995, and editor-in-chief in 2004. He retired in 2012. During his tenure as managing editor Baum oversaw the implementation of a largely digital workflow and the creation of C&EN Online. As editor-in-chief, he wrote 40 to 45 editorials per year on topics ranging from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to climate

change, environmental protection, and evolution.

Baum received a B.A. in chemistry from Duke University in 1975; he studied medicine for one year at Georgetown University before joining the ACS's Education Division in 1976. He and his wife Janice (a retired third-grade teacher) have been married for 38 years.

Portland Section wins ChemLuminary in Medium-Large Section Category



Chair Warren Ford and Councilor Marcie Merritt attended the ChemLuminary Award ceremony at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego Tuesday night August 27. To their surprise and delight the Portland

Local Section won the award, presented by the Local Section Activities Committee, for best performance in the medium-large (800-1599 members) category. Congratulations to all who contributed to our activities last year, especially Angela for the OMSI activities using ACS materials and National Chemistry Week, Marcie for the Boeing community outreach activities, and the organizing committee of OSSF. Thanks too to those who contributed to all of the other activities that appeared in our annual report. With an outstanding NORM 2019 the section is performing just as well in 2019. Marcie wrote, "We had stiff competition. Princeton had similar information on their poster. It wasn't until the Boston Museum of Science man came up to me all excited about our OMSI projects—saying he hoped we'd win. And then ACS board members came, asked questions and looked at our poster—but had our Annual Report memorized—I wondered what was going on that we were attracting so much attention over NASA that was next to us".