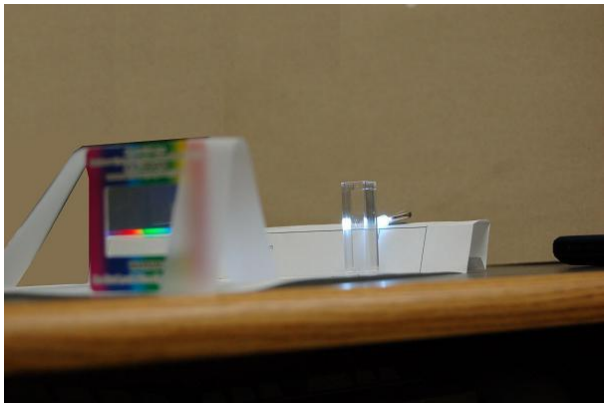
Analytical Chemistry Education Community Newsletter

March 2026

ASDL Activity Highlight



ASDL activity

Instructions

Professor Marya Lieberman, University of Notre Dame, used the cell phone spectrometer (Scheeline and Kelley) as a take-home activity in an Instrumental Analysis course with no associated laboratory. The activity was implemented in a 3-week spectrophotometry module with a focus on block diagrams, light sources, and detectors. Students received a set of instructions, a white light LED (P754 from Adafruit), a 1000 lines/mm diffraction grating (holographic diffraction film from Edmund Optics), a 3V CR2032 lithium ion battery, and a plastic cuvette. Image J was used to capture average greyscale pixel intensities. All 13 students were able to capture a "blank" spectrum and test least one sample at multiple concentration levels. Most students calibrated their spectra (pixels to nanometers) based on light color while several students used a laser to calibrate more exactly. Students demonstrated their spectrophotometer in class to their peers which sparked thoughtful discussion on instrument design/robustness.



Have you used a resource from the ASDL site or elsewhere effectively in your analytical chemistry teaching?

Let us know so we can highlight the resource and your implementation in our next newsletter.

Submit here

Join our online faculty learning community on accessibility!



Struggling to make your course content Title II compliant? Join the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Accessibility to discuss and work through your challenges. We meet via Zoom on the first Thursday of each month at noon EST (9 am PST). Click here to join the FLC. The March 5th meeting will focus on equations. See below for more information.

Making Equations Accessible Webinar on Thursday March 5



Mathematician Berit Givens from Cal Poly Pomona will join us to share what she has learned about using the software/website pandoc to convert files containing equations into accessible HTML. The software converts LaTeX or Word files into HTML with the tool MathJax for making equations readable by screen readers. While Dr. Givens is still a novice in this effort, she is having some success with converting LaTeX. She will share her methods, how she incorporates the output into Canvas pages, and some tips and tricks.

Zoom link: https://cpp.zoom.us/j/81437682149

Meeting ID: 814 3768 2149

Passcode: 096812

Upcoming Events!

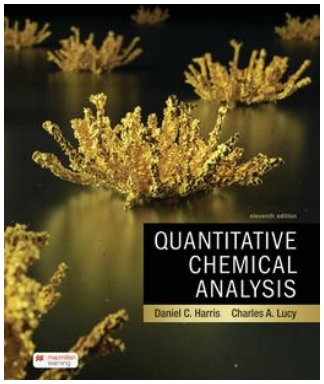


Analytical chemistry instructors are invited to an informal meet-up with other educators at the spring ACS meeting in Atlanta on **Monday 3/23 from 4-5:45 pm in Room A308b** in the Convention Center. Catch up with old colleagues or meet new ones while we discuss teaching resources and opportunities.

Join us for a discussion hour panel on communities of practice in analytical chemistry education, including representatives from the the ANA-POGIL Project, the Analytical Sciences Digital Library (ASDL) active learning group, the Distributed Pharmaceutical Analysis Lab (DPAL), and the µCURE project. The discussion hour will be held on Zoom on **Friday, April 10, 2-3 pm Eastern**. Registration link.

We will be hosting a one-day workshop on active learning in analytical chemistry at the upcoming Biennial Conference on Chemical Education Meeting (July 26-30). This hands-on workshop helps analytical chemistry instructors enhance student engagement through active learning. Participants will experience active learning as students, then develop their own classroom activities with peer and facilitator support. Post-workshop support continues through optional online faculty learning communities for ongoing dialogue and resource sharing.

Teaching Resources



The People of Analytical Chemistry PowerPoint resource has profiles of over 110 analytical chemists. Use this teaching resource to introduce your students to role models in the analytical sciences that they can identify with. Notes accompanying each slide connect the role models to material in the Harris/Lucy Quantitative Analysis textbook, but the resource is text agnostic. Learn more about background and techniques for using the resource here.

Are you looking for ways to make your chemistry courses more accessible?

Check out this newly published book from the Royal Society of Chemistry Advances in Chemistry Education series.

"Drawing on research evidence on approaches to inclusion and describing examples of the inclusion of chemistry students with differing types of disability, this book sets out what we know about successful inclusion. Wide ranging accounts provide a discussion of barriers faced, helpful strategies and recommendations for improving accessibility and inclusivity in higher education."

