

MEDIA RELEASE
December 1, 2015
805-801-2587



SCIENCE AFTER DARK LECTURE SERIES

Back By Popular Demand: Molecular Gastronomy, or... The Science of Playing with Food

San Luis Obispo, CA – (immediate release) The Central Coast STEM Collaborative (CCSTEM), presents the fourth installment of the educational lecture series “Science After Dark” at 6:30pm, December 9, 2015, at Steynberg Gallery in San Luis Obispo. The series is scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month through June, 2016. Visit www.ccstem.org for details of future topics and locations.

Dr. Nanine Van Draanen, assisted by Cal Poly students and staff, will demonstrate one of the latest food crazes, “molecular gastronomy,” a term coined in 1992 by late Oxford physicist Nicholas Kurti and the French INRA chemist Hervé This. Molecular gastronomy is a subdiscipline of food science that seeks to investigate, explain and make practical use of the physical and chemical transformations of ingredients that occur while cooking, as well as the social, artistic and technical components of culinary and gastronomic phenomena in general. Attendees of all ages will enjoy taste-testing the concoctions.

Dr. Van Draanen is Interim Associate Dean, [College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences](#), at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Her research interests include synthetic, organic and medicinal chemistry; pedagogical methods in organic chemistry; preparation of allicin analogues and their roles in blood pressure regulation and migraine; and lipophilic acetates as transdermal cyclooxygenase inhibitors as anti-inflammatory agents for burn treatment. Dr. Van Draanen is a 1985 Cal Poly alumna and returned to Cal Poly in 1996, after serving several years as a scientist for Burroughs Wellcome Co. and Glaxo Wellcome Inc., where she earned a 1994 Excellence Award and a 1990 Special Performance Award. She has published several papers in peer-reviewed journals, holds one patent and has submitted four patent applications. She earned a doctorate from UC Berkeley in 1992.

Where: Hosted by Steynberg Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Time: The science starts at 6:30pm, edible food included!
Cost: \$5.00 cover charge in support of the mission of CCSTEM, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase.

CCSTEM was established as a regional affiliate of the California STEM Learning Network. All of tomorrow’s workers will need the analytical, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) impart. CCSTEM is committed to enhancing and promoting STEM learning and developing career readiness in San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties by fostering the collective impact of local, state, and national stakeholders. Members of CCSTEM currently serve on the leadership committee for the countywide CA Math and Science Partnership grant, the Business Council of the San Luis Obispo County Workforce Development Board, and on county committees to provide professional development to teachers in the roll out of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards initiatives.