

Chemistry In Emerging Technologies Lectures

**Nazareth College - Peckham Hall, Room 12
4245 East Avenue, Pittsford, NY**

Monday, October 28, 2013

Sugars from Biomass - Applying Biotechnology to Chemical Synthesis

**7:00 pm: Introduction by Arunas Chesonis, Sweetwater Energy CEO,
followed by lecture by Sarad Parekh, Ph. D., Sweetwater Energy CTO**

Speakers Bios

Arunas Chesonis is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Sweetwater Energy. Mr. Chesonis founded (1998) and served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PAETEC Holding Corp., a Fortune 1000 telecommunications company acquired in 2011 by Windstream Corp., one of the largest national telecom carriers. He previously served as President of ACC Corp. until it was purchased by TCG/AT&T in 1998. Mr. Chesonis received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award by the College of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology and was elected to the Rochester Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Chesonis has a long history in renewable energy. His private philanthropic organization, the Chesonis Family Foundation, supports environmental and renewable energy research projects, and has given \$10 million to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to support breakthrough technology research to address climate change and sustainability. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MBA from the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester, and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Rochester. Mr. Chesonis is also a member of the M.I.T. Corporation and is a trustee of the University of Rochester and The Harley School.

Sarad Parekh is the Chief Technology Officer at Sweetwater Energy leading all aspects of Sweetwater's research, development, and technology implementation. Dr. Parekh has more than 25 years of industrial experience in biochemical engineering, synthetic biology, microbiology, fermentation technology, and biomass-related process development and commercialization. Prior to joining Sweetwater Energy, he served as Vice President of Research and Development at Qteros, as well as Director of Pilot Plant Operations at Phyton Biotech, and Global Technology Leader at Dow AgroSciences. Dr. Parekh also brings expertise in commercialization of various chemical and pharmaceutical operations from his experience as Section Head of Biotechnology in Technical Operations at Merck Manufacturing Division.

Dr. Parekh earned his BSc in Chemistry, MS in Microbiology and his Ph.D. in process engineering from the University Department of Chemical Technology, Mumbai. As postdoctoral research fellow he spent 4 years at the Department of Biochemical Engineering at the University of Western Ontario, and Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto. Dr. Parekh also spent three years as Research Fellow at the Food Engineering Department at the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana. He won a commercialization award from the Corn Marketing Board for his work on production of deicing chemicals by fermentation from renewable sugars and Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 1999. He has several patents to his credit, more than 40 publications and chapters in peer-reviewed journals, and has edited three books on various topics related to industrial biomass conversion, including engineering microbial strains, process improvement, scale-up and commercialization.

10-10-13