



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

PERMIAN BASIN SECTION

Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair:

I hope all of you are ready for spring, especially after the snowy and icy weather that brought in 2015. We were fortunate to schedule Dr. Tracy Hamilton (University of Alabama at Birmingham) on January 22, 2015 to talk about *Zymurgy: The Art and Science of Brewing Beer*. The event was very well attended despite a forecast for ice and sleet. Tracy is usually booked solid – we have been trying to schedule him since spring of 2014! In the meantime, we will continue with scheduling speakers for the fall. The local section also is looking into a location for a summer social to provide an opportunity for our members to socialize and, of course, network.

Our ACS student chapters received awards from the national ACS Committee on Education for the chapters' activities during the 2013-14 academic year. Angelo State University's ACS student chapter received a Commendable Award for the ninth straight year. Additionally, for the fourth straight year, the ASU chapter has received a Green Chemistry Award for outreach activities. The University of Texas at Permian Basin's ACS student chapter received a Commendable Award and Midland College ACS student chapter received an Honorable Mention. The ACS chapters were honored at the 248th ACS National Meeting on March 22 in Denver, CO.

Several ACS student members presented at the Denver meeting:

- ACS Student Chapter posters – Sergio Ivan Pena: Angelo State University Green Chemistry Student Chapter (advisors: Dr. Edith Osborne and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, ASU); Blake Holle: Angelo State University ACS Student Chapter (advisors: Dr. Edith Osborne and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, ASU); and Sara Moreno: UTPB Chemistry Club: Promoting Chemistry in West Texas (advisor: Dr. Kyle Beran, UTPB)
- Research student poster – Norberto Aguilar and Billy Garcia: Multistep drug synthesis in the sophomore organic lab: Synthesising R-rasagiline, a popular Parkinson's drug (Dr. Samuel David, UTPB)
- Research student presentation – Jason Snitker: Investigating the antimicrobial properties of silver nanoparticles with respect to

Desulfovibrio genus bacteria (Dr. Milka Montes, UTPB)

We held our annual election in November. We currently do not have a Chair-Elect. If you are interested in running for this position for next year, let us know. If you have any questions about this position (and the Chair position), please do not hesitate in contacting us. As always, our contact information may be found at the end of the newsletter.

The local section has other projects in the incubator and will keep you informed as they develop. Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or ideas for programs.

Dr. Kathryn Louie
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Councilor Corner

Highlights from the 2015 Spring ACS National meeting:

1. Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) reported a total attendance of 13,940 as of Tuesday evening, March 24.
 - a. M&E recommends that the Early Member Registration Fee for 2016 national meetings be \$415, per the National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan.
 - b. As part of the continuing ACS sustainability effort and to encourage the use of the ACS mobile app and online program, M&E has decided to discontinue free distribution of the hard copy program book starting in 2016. Those who pre-register for the meeting may purchase a copy of the program book for \$10 (pick up on site), and copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. The PDF version will be more prominently displayed on the ACS website for those who would like to print portions for themselves.
2. The Council voted to set the member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of \$162. This rate was established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2016-2018 terms: **Willem R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary Jo Ondrechen, and Thomas W. Smith**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on October 2, 2015.
4. By electronic ballot, the Council selected G. Bryan Balazs and Allison A. Campbell as candidates for 2016 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

A detailed report may be found on the website <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>

Upcoming National and Regional Meetings and Programs

250th ACS National Meeting & Exposition – Fall 2015

Boston, Massachusetts, USA
August 16-20, 2015

**Theme: Innovation from
Discovery to Application**



Southeast/Southwest Regional Meeting

Memphis, Tennessee
November 4-7, 2015

Permian Basin News

Angelo State University hosted the Girl Scouts of Central Texas STEM Conference on Saturday, March 7, 2015. The conference is put on to nurture girls' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Girls attended four workshops presented by engineers, ASU, and Howard College STEM professors. The event concluded with a Science Demonstration in which students from the ACS and the Society of Physics alternated doing chemistry and physics demonstrations. Dr. Kathryn Louie organized the workshop "The Chemistry of Art" and was assisted by students Lacey McMurtry, Valerie Alcala, and Janet Gonzalez.



The ACS students at ASU also assisted with the Science Days program at ASU, in which students from the fourth grades in local elementary schools are given tours of the science

departments, do some hands-on science demonstrations, and are treated to a Magic Show. These activities took place on February 24, February 26, March 3, March 10, and March 12.



Three ACS chapters from the Permian Basin section attended the 249th ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Denver, Colorado, from March 21 to March 24.

The ASU chapter, represented by Ivan Pena, Blake Holle, Amber Sullivan, and their faculty advisors, Dr. Edith Osborne and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, received a Green Chemistry award and a Commendable chapter award at the Student Chapter Awards Ceremony on March 22, and presented a chapter activity poster and a green chemistry poster at the Sci-Mix Poster Session on March 23.

The UTPB chapter, represented by Jason Snitker, Billy Garcia, and Norberto Aguilar, and their faculty advisor, Dr. Kyle Beran, received a Commendable chapter award, and presented a chapter activity poster at the Sci-Mix Poster Session. Billy Garcia and Norberto Aguilar also presented a research poster at the Undergraduate Research Poster Session based on their work with Dr. Samuel David, and Jason Snitker gave an oral presentation based on his research with Dr. Milka Montes.

The Midland College chapter, represented by Zach Lyon, Marina Ngassa, Xuan Ding, and their faculty advisor, Dr. Pat Nandakumar, received an Honorable Mention award, and presented a chapter activity poster at the Sci-Mix session.





Angelo State University (ASU) chemistry students and faculty hosted an Art and Science Family Day on Saturday, April 11, at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. There were several tables set up with presentations about the connections between science and art. Visitors had a chance to learn about ceramics, fossils, 3D printing, and make a necklace containing a sample of their DNA. Dr. Kathryn Louie, with an early jump on Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, oversaw the Chromatography Butterfly table in the Education Studio at the museum. All who stopped by were provided opportunities to create other pieces of art.



A Chemical Thought

Carbon is only the fifteenth most common element, accounting for a very modest 0.048 percent of Earth's crust, but we would be lost without it. What sets the carbon atom apart is that it is shamelessly promiscuous. It is the party animal of the atomic world, latching on to many other atoms (including itself) and holding tight, forming molecular conga lines of hearty robustness — the very trick of nature necessary to build proteins and DNA. As Paul Davies has written: "If it wasn't for carbon, life as we know it would be impossible. Probably any sort of life would be

impossible.” Yet carbon is not all that plentiful even in humans, who so vitally depend on it. Of every 200 atoms in your body, 126 are hydrogen, 51 are oxygen, and just 19 are carbon.

Bill Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (2003)

Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

A small furry mammal walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender says, “Sorry, our maximum occupancy is only 6.00×10^{23} . We can't serve a mole.”

Did you hear about the industrialist who had a huge chloroform spill at his factory? His business went insolvent.

Have you heard the one about a chemist who was reading a book about helium and just couldn't put it down?

If a bear in Yosemite and one in Alaska both fall into the water, which one dissolves faster? The one in Alaska, because it is polar.

Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2015

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If you have news about local activities, student activities, new employees, new members, good (or bad) science/chemistry jokes, or any other events related to the local section that you want to be included in the newsletter, please send the information to Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu.