



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY**

**PERMIAN BASIN SECTION**

**Newsletter**

*Volume 8, Number 2*

*September, 2015*



Letter from the Chair:

Hope all of you had a good summer. Due to the unexpected but welcomed “deluge” of rain during the previous months, we entered the summer with an unusually green West Texas. However, the second half of the year appears not to be as wet. Back to “normal”, perhaps?

We held a summer social this year to provide an informal opportunity for the members of the section to gather. Although a small group attended, we had a good time visiting (and networking) over a glass of beer. Let me know whether you would like to continue a summer get-together.

The local section has scheduled the following speakers: October 10 – Dr. Pat Nandakumar and January 26, 2016 – Dr. Mary Virginia Orna. More information may be found elsewhere in the newsletter and further details will be provided in future announcements.

We will be holding our annual election in November. If you are interested in running for chair-elect (or chair, since we had no chair-elect this year) for 2016, let us know. If you have any questions about any of the board positions, please do not hesitate in contacting us. As always, our contact information may be found at the end of the newsletter.

Highlights from the Fall ACS meeting in Boston are reported in the Councilors Corner. The full Councilor’s report may be found on the Permian Basin website <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>

Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or comments.

Dr. Kathryn Louie  
klouie@suddenlink.net

**Councilor Corner**

Highlights from the 2015 Fall ACS National Meeting:

1. The Committee on Meetings and Expositions reported a total attendance of 13,888. The Exposition had 475 booths with 325 exhibiting companies. There were nearly 5500 downloads of the Boston Mobile App.
2. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the following **candidates for President-Elect, 2016**:
  - **G. Bryan Balazs**, Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA
  - **Allison A. Campbell**, Associate Laboratory Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA
3. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2016-2018 terms: **Lee H. Latimer, Willem R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary Jo Ondrechen, and Thomas W. Smith**. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on October 2, 2015.
4. The ACS Board of Directors **VOTED** to approve an advance member registration fee of \$415 for national meetings held in 2016.
5. The Committee on Chemical Safety released its final report, "Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories". Councilors and their institutions engaged in research were urged to consider using this guide to help keep their laboratories safer. This report is available at [www.acs.org/safety](http://www.acs.org/safety).

A full Councilor's report may be found on the website <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>

## Upcoming Permian Basin Meetings

**October 10, 2015**

**Family Day Eco Fair in the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts**

**1 Love Street, San Angelo, Texas**

**10 am – 3 pm**

As a part of the annual Family Day Eco Fair at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, the Permian Basin section of the ACS will be hosting a speaker, Dr. Pat Nandakumar from Midland College. There will also be demonstrations performed by the Angelo State University ACS student group, as well as a number of vendors, and other visual art hands-on projects.

**Speaker: Dr. Pat Nandakumar (Midland College)**

Time: 1 pm

Dr. Pat Nandakumar is a Chemistry Faculty in the Department of Science and Mathematics at Midland College. Prior to this, she was a member of the faculty in the Chemistry Department at the University of Texas at Permian Basin (UTPB). Dr. Nandakumar did her postdoctoral work on the electrochemical

recycling of chemical reagents during the biomass to jet fuel conversion process under Prof. Robinson of UTPB. She earned her doctorate in Materials Science and Technology and her research thesis is entitled “Impedance, Electric Modulus and Solid State Battery Studies of Silver Based Fast Ionic Conductors”.

Dr. Nandakumar has been awarded summer research fellowships in Oakridge National Laboratory, Oakridge, TN (2012) and the University of Texas, Austin (2013). She is an active promoter of science in the green chemistry area and organizes community outreach events to increase the awareness of STEM disciplines.

**Subject: “Sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Atmosphere into Short Chain Carbon Molecules”**

During the summer of 2009, Dr. Pat Nandakumar carried out a Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) collaborative research under the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) act on Project Green Freedom. The project involved electrochemical methods of sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>, with Dr. Jim Wright as the Principal Investigator.

The project involved building an electrochemical recycling plant, where sequestering took place. She will discuss this green chemistry project during her presentation.

Dr. Nandakumar also will present a few green chemistry demonstrations, such as Biodegradable Packing Peanuts versus Petroleum Packing Peanuts. This classic example of cellulose-made packing peanuts versus regular petroleum-made packing peanuts is almost a decade old, yet continues to be an exciting example of green chemistry, especially for children.

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**January 26, 2016**

**Speaker: Dr. Mary Virginia Orna (College of New Rochelle)**

**Subject: “Found and Lost: Incredible Tales of Spurious, Erroneous, and Rehabilitated Elements”**

More information about this event will be provided in a future newsletter

## Upcoming National and Regional Meetings and Programs

**251<sup>st</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition – Spring 2016**

San Diego, California, USA

March 13-17, 2015

**Theme: Computers in Chemistry**

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## **Southeast/Southwest Regional Meeting**

71st SWRM/67th SERMACS

Memphis, Tennessee

November 4-7, 2015

**Theme: Exploring All Directions**

### **Permian Basin News**

The ACS student group at Angelo State University recently received a designation of Outstanding Student Chapter for its efforts during the 2014-2015 academic year. They were also designated a Green Chemistry chapter.

### **A Chemical Thought**

Chlorine is a poisonous gas. In case I should fall over unconscious in the following demonstration involving chlorine, please pick me up and carry me into the open air. Should this happen, the lecture for the day will be concluded.

Egon Wiberg

### **Chemists Just Want To Have pHun**

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

What substance has the formula HIJKLMNO? Water.

Why do chemists like nitrates so much? They're cheaper than day rates.

## Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2015

<b>Chair: Dr. Kathryn Louie</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 e-mail: <a href="mailto:klouie@suddenlink.net">klouie@suddenlink.net</a>	<b>Treasurer: Dr. Kyle Beran</b> University of Texas of the Permian Basin phone: (432) 552-2238 e-mail: <a href="mailto:beran_k@utpb.edu">beran_k@utpb.edu</a>
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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](mailto:Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu).