



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

PERMIAN BASIN SECTION

Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair

The Christmas holidays are just around the corner. For some of you, the semester is quickly coming to a close with finals and graduation, and then time to get ready to spend time with family or go on vacation.

The election for 2017 officers for the Permian Basin Local Section has been completed. The results may be found below. Your officers are looking forward to the New Year and I am sure there will be various programs planned.

Hope all of you have a safe holiday season as you travel to be with to your family. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or comments.

Dr. Kathryn Louie
klouie@suddenlink.net

Permian Basin Election Results

The results from our most recent Permian Basin section election were:

Chair-Elect: Dr. Kathryn Louie
Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux
Treasurer: Dr. Kyle Beran

Upcoming National and Regional Meetings and Programs

**253rd ACS National Meeting &
Exposition – Spring 2017**
San Francisco, CA
April 2-6, 2017
**Theme: Advanced Materials,
Technologies, Systems & Processes**



72nd Annual SWRM
Galveston, TX
November 10-13, 2016

**Theme: Innovations in Energy and
Medicine**



Permian Basin News

On Thursday, December 1, and Monday, December 5, Mr. Kevin Boudreaux performed a couple of Chemistry Magic Shows at ASU for visiting school groups from Holiman Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School.

The following may be of interest to our members:

Dr. Joseph Nagyvary, Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University, was a tour speaker for many years. His presentation was about the chemistry of Stradivarius violins. Below is his news that he would like to be brought to our section members.

My presentations about the chemistry of Stradivarius violins have enjoyed great popularity with the local sections of the ACS for over 26 years (1982-2008). For the past ten years I have been working on my memoir of Hungary that describes the lives of chemistry students during the period of the Cold War, and our participation in the 1956 uprising and fight for freedom. Currently, I am preparing a program with the tentative title: "From mixing Molotov cocktails to mining Stradivari's secrets". It is based on my book which was published last month at amazon.com to coincide with the 60th anniversary celebrations of the 1956 events. For more information on its content, go to www.violenceandviolins.com and see the news release from Texas A&M University:

http://today.tamu.edu/2016/10/13/violence-and-violins-prof-recalls-his-role-in-hungarian-revolution/?utm_source=today&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2016-10-26&utm_content=Violence%20and%20violins

NOTE: News about you makes this publication interesting for our members. Please take a few minutes to jot down what you are doing.

- 1) Speeches, papers, symposia, invited talks
- 2) Publications, patents, grants awarded

- 3) New positions, appointments, promotions, awards, honors, retirements, postdoctoral research
- 4) Offices held in professional societies
- 5) Avocational achievements, miscellaneous

ACS Student Chapter News

In the month of October, the ASU Student Chapter of ACS hosted the following programs:

- Oct 11: Program in a Box webinar about building careers in Chemistry: “The Chemists’ Code for Success: Three Essential Skill Sets for Your Career.”
- Oct 18: National Chemistry Week — student members sculpted moles out of Play-Dough and entered the Mole Day coloring contest.
- Oct 25: Movie Night — the students of the ACS sponsored a showing in the Angelo State University planetarium of the movie *Star Wars, Episode VII: The Force Awakens*.

On Nov 1, the Student Chapter invited Drs. Bruce Atwater, Greg Smith, and David Carter to speak about their research. This meeting provided an opportunity for students interested in undergraduate research to see what is available. The topics covered at this meeting were:

- Dr. Bruce Atwater — “Research in the Atwater Group: Total Synthesis”
- Dr. Greg Smith — “Nanoscale and Surface Chemistry”
- Dr. David Carter — “Environmental Research Opportunities”

On Oct 22, 2016, the ACS Student Chapter at Midland College organized National Chemistry Week celebrations at Midland Park Mall. Dr. Pat Nandakumar was the NCW coordinator for the event, and several student members took active part in doing demos and hands-on activities. Megan Ennis separated DNA from strawberries; Zachary Hunter presented a “Guess the element” show to help the public in identifying the elements sodium, copper, phosphorous, aluminum, and zinc; Brandon Sanchez lifted fingerprints; Charity Anderson and Brian Weeks presented the fruit-juice sleuth hands-on activity; Sikemi Esan and Jazia Espinoza explained magic sand (non-wetting) and carried out an invisible ink experiment; and Austin Jones, manning the dry ice station, explained what dry ice is and created a “mini tornado” as well as performing several other demos.



A Chemical Thought

In France, a chemist named Pilatre de Rozier tested the flammability of hydrogen by gulping a mouthful and blowing across an open flame, proving at a stroke that hydrogen is indeed explosively combustible and that eyebrows are not necessarily a permanent feature of one's face.

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

Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

A Chemistry Christmas Carol:

“Deck the Labs”

Deck the labs with rubber tubing

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Use your funnel and your filter

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our goggles and aprons

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Before we go to our lab stations

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fill the beakers with solutions
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Mix solutions for reactions
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Watch we now for observations
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
So we can collect our data
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2017

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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.