



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY**

**PERMIAN BASIN SECTION**

**Newsletter**

*Volume 4, Number 3*

*May, 2011*



**Upcoming Local Meetings, Events, and Announcements**

**Upcoming ACS Permian Basin Section Meetings**

**September 29, 2011:** James Traynham (Louisiana State University, retired) — “Chemical History Firsthand: Excerpts from the Oral History Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation”

**October 6, 2011:** James & Jenny Marshall (University of North Texas) — “Rediscovery of the Elements”

**November 3, 2011:** Dwight Chasar (Retired) — “Chemistry is for the Birds”

**International Year of Chemistry 2011**

This year is the International Year of Chemistry. The ACS is developing a number of themes and activities for each quarter of the year to raise public awareness of chemistry. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

**Upcoming National and Regional Meetings**



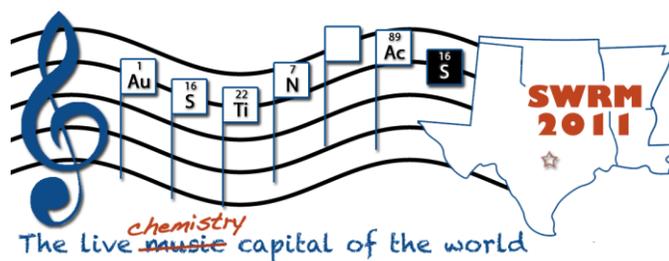
**ACS Fall 2011 National Meeting & Exposition**

August 28 – September 1, 2011

Denver, Colorado

Colorado Convention Center & Area Hotels

**Meeting Theme: Chemistry of Air, Space, and Water**



### **67th Southwest Regional ACS Meeting**

November 9-12, 2011  
Austin, Texas  
Doubletree Hotel Austin

## **Permian Basin News**

### **Permian Basin Section Web Page Coming Soon!**

I have recently gotten the setup information from the ACS to start a web page for the Permian Basin section. I will send an e-mail containing the address for the web page once I have it set up. I hope to have the site available in the next couple of weeks, after I'm done recovering from this semester (although this semester might require more than two weeks to recover!).

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### **Green Chemistry Symposium at ASU**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the ACS student group at ASU hosted their Fourth Annual Green Chemistry Symposium. Our featured speaker was Dr. Chris Sansone, who gave a talk entitled "Are Production Agriculture and Green Chemistry Compatible?" We also had a poster presentation, some hands-on (and hands-off!) "Chemistry Magic" demonstrations, and a demonstration of solar ovens by James Robinson.

### **Research Posters:**

#### **ASU**

- Elizabeth Leffel (Dr. Edith Osborne, faculty advisor): "In vitro stability of an RNA triplex"
- William (Wills) Register (Dr. Edith Osborne, faculty advisor): "Comparison of group I intron activity based on sequence length"

#### **UTPB**

- Leticia Cruz (Dr. Christine Hahn, faculty advisor): "Gold (I) catalyzed water and methanol additions to alkynes"
- Vivian Gomez (Dr. Kyle Beran, faculty advisor): "Analysis of the energetic stability and electronic properties of exohedral derivatives of C<sub>20</sub>: C<sub>20</sub>X<sub>n</sub> (X = F, Cl, H, Br ; n = 1-4)"
- Roy Williams (Dr. Kyle Beran, faculty advisor): "Theoretical investigation of the conversion of D-lactate into non-toxic biological molecular species"

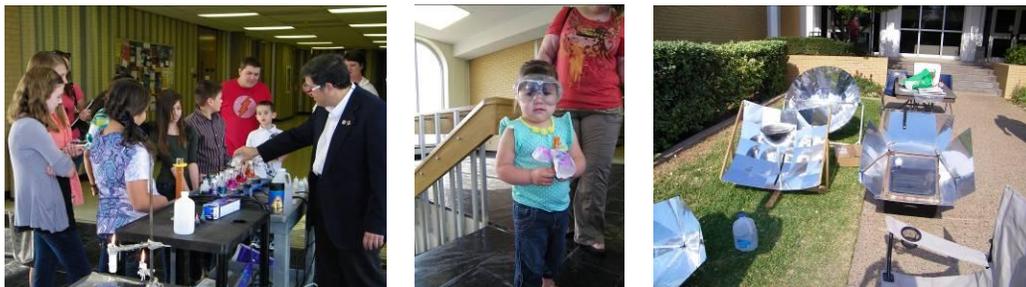
## ACS Student Clubs:

### ASU

- Kelly Gross, President: Presented chapter poster and received chapter award on behalf of the chapter

### UTPB

- Matthew Smith, President: Received chapter award on behalf of the chapter



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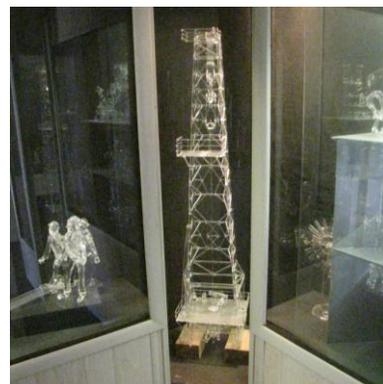
## Earth Day at UTPB

The Chemistry Club of UTPB celebrated Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with a presentation by Roy Williams. He presented the geological aspect of Salton Sea and desert geography of area around it. It was a very interesting presentation which showed how a desert could be completely boring or fascinating. He walked us through various vegetation, wild birds and animals. We felt it is very apt on Earth Day to talk about how to preserve the nature.



## **Glass Blowing at UTPB**

The inorganic class students of UTPB visited the Glass blowing shop owned by Mr. Joe Pyle on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Dr. Hahn organized this program and the students were thrilled to watch Joe making wonders with glass. It was an experience that they will remember forever.



## **Counselor's Report — Dr. David Carter**

### **Counselor's Report, April 10, 2011, David Carter**

In addition to the Council meeting, I attended the following Governance Events: Committee on Science Meeting (Saturday), Presidential Town Hall Meeting (Sunday Afternoon) and the District V Councilor Caucus (Sunday Evening). At Dr. Louie's request, I am providing the Councilor Talking Points and an "Additional Talking Points" that summarize key Council and Governance activities.

I encountered four recurring themes in those meetings, the council meeting and conversations with others at Anaheim.

The first was the focus of the "Additional Talking Points" and that has to do with increasing unemployment and changing job market for Chemists in the United States. In the late 1990's, the Chemical Industry was one of the few industries bringing money into the United States. With the rapidly expanding globalization of industrial chemical production, that quickly changed with many chemical industry jobs moving outside of U.S. borders. The "Additional Talking Points" touches on key actions. Basically, since the U.S. dominance in chemical production has diminished, ACS analysts view innovation in the form of entrepreneurship and small companies as the key in maintaining a strong chemical industry in the United States. If you have not been aware of it, ACS has been substantially improving its services to ACS members who are looking for employment (see [www.acs.org/careers](http://www.acs.org/careers)) including job fairs at each National Meeting and online as well.

A second major theme was the continuing reduction in support for research and development on the part of the government and large businesses. In her address to the Council, Dr. Nancy

Jackson (ACS president) committed that as she has travelled to participate in International Year of Chemistry events, she has been amazed at the contrast between the commitment that is apparent in other nations, even some of the developing nations. Along these lines, there was a lot of discussion on the effects of current trends in U.S. education and the effect it is having on students entering institutions of higher education.

The third major theme which has already been seen in previously mentioned themes is globalization, principally globalization of the chemical industry. In addition, to encouraging entrepreneurship, ACS is encouraging U.S. chemists to consider international opportunities and has worked to position itself internationally by incorporation of international chapters and working closely with Chemical Societies from other countries.

The last recurring theme is a concern for and dedication to attaining environmental sustainability.

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

Subatomic particle store sign:

Protons	\$1
Electrons	-\$1
Neutrons	no charge

### **A Chemical Thought**

An absolutely pure crystal of salt could have the position of every atom specified by something like 10 bits of information. [Chlorine is a deadly poison gas ... Sodium is a corrosive metal which burns upon contact with water. Together they make a placid and unpoisonous material, table salt. Why each of these substances has the properties it does is a subject called chemistry, which requires more than 10 bits of information to understand.]

Carl Sagan, *Broca's Brain: Reflections on the Romance of Science* (1979)

“Can We Know The Universe? Reflections On A Grain Of Salt”

## Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2011

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<p><b>Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux</b>          Angelo State University          phone: (325) 942-2181 ext. 6623          e-mail: <a href="mailto:kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu">kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu</a></p>	<p><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></p>
<p><b>Councilor: Dr. David Carter</b>          Angelo State University          phone: (325) 942-2181 ext. 6626          e-mail: <a href="mailto:david.carter@angelo.edu">david.carter@angelo.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Alternate Councilor: Dr. John Wiley</b>          University of Texas of the Permian Basin          phone: (432) 296-8464          e-mail: <a href="mailto:johnrwis@gmail.com">johnrwis@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Past Chair: Dr. Pat Nandakumar</b>          University of Texas of the Permian Basin          phone: (432) 552-2241          e-mail: <a href="mailto:nandakumar_p@utpb.edu">nandakumar_p@utpb.edu</a></p>	

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).

IYC handout