



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY**

**PERMIAN BASIN SECTION**

**Newsletter**

*Volume 4, Number 4*

*September, 2011*



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

**ACS Permian Basin Section Meeting:**

**Speaker:** James Traynham (Louisiana State University, retired)

**Title:** “Chemical History Firsthand: Excerpts from the Oral History Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation”

**When:** **September 29, 2011**; 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Cavness Science Building (corner of Dena and Johnson), ASU (San Angelo)  
[see map provided]

**Biographical Sketch:**

**James G. Traynham** is a professor of chemistry, emeritus, at Louisiana State University (LSU), where he became a faculty member in 1953. During 1968-73, he was chairman of the Department of Chemistry, and for eight years, beginning in 1973, he was part-time chemist, at best, while he served LSU as vice chancellor for Advanced Studies and Research and dean of the Graduate School. A large part of his professional time was directly associated with teaching organic chemistry to large classes of students. He spent two sabbatical leaves in Europe, one supported by an American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund award (1959-60), and one as a NATO Senior Fellow in Science (1972). His research interest in mechanisms of organic reactions focused on carbocation processes, radical halogenations, and ipso intermediates in radical aromatic substitution reactions. During the past decade, he turned his attention to research on the history of organic chemistry. Besides his journal publications about his research, Professor Traynham has written review articles, chapters for six advanced level books, articles on teaching chemistry, and a text-supplement workbook on organic chemical nomenclature, now in the fourth edition; he was general editor as well as a contributing author for a volume of essays on the history of organic chemistry.



**Title:** “Chemical History Firsthand: Excerpts from the Oral History Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation”

For over two decades, the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) has been recording and archiving oral history interviews with distinguished chemists and chemical engineers in industry

and universities. Over 200 interviews have been completed, and they constitute a remarkable resource of chemical history told by the participants themselves. The speaker has been conducting CHF interviews since 1996. The interviewees include researchers, inventors, and CEOs; most have been recipients of prestigious awards and medals. These recorded interviews include much information not found in the usual biographical sketches accompanying award citations: early childhood and schooling, early influence toward and education in chemical science, career development and experiences, and non-scientific interests. They provide interesting stories and insights about backgrounds, choices, and emphases of highly successful chemical scientists. This talk will present excerpts of several interviews conducted by the speaker that illuminate the kinds of stories and insights to be found in the collection. Emphasis will be placed on the unexpected facets of the careers and of the scientists, on both the connecting threads and the diversity among them. At its national Expositions, ACS markets T-shirts with the imprint “Chemists — the human element.” The contents of the CHF oral history collection and of this talk illustrate the basis for such an imprint.

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### **Future ACS Permian Basin Section Meetings**

**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”

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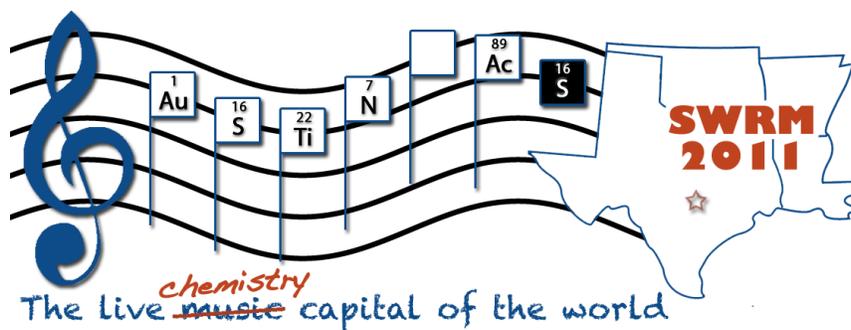
### **International Year of Chemistry 2011**

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**

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

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



## Permian Basin News

### Permian Basin Section Web Page Is Here!

We now have a web page for the Permian Basin section of the ACS, administered through the ACS and Webs.com. The address for the site is <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>. If anyone has anything they'd like to add to the site, or any pictures of activities for their group, please send them to me at [Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu](mailto:Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu).

Kevin A. Boudreaux,  
*Secretary, Permian Basin ACS Section*

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### Updating the Permian Basin Section Bylaws

Dr. Louie has updated the bylaws for the Permian Basin section so that they are more consistent with current ACS policies and procedures. The updated bylaws will be posted on the Permian Basin web page. During the next officer election, we will also have a vote about the new bylaws as well, so make sure that you take a look at them some time in the next few weeks.

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### Officer Elections

We will be holding elections soon for officer positions in the Permian Basin section, instead of our usual policy of having them at the last minute. (Of course, if it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would ever get done. ☺) If anyone is interested in running for a position, please send your name to one of the officers. We will be sending ballots out through the mail by late September or early October.

## Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

90	63
<b>Th</b>	<b>Eu</b>

6	2	12	53	16	22	16
<b>C</b>	<b>He</b>	<b>Mg</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Ti</b>	<b>S</b>

66	6	22	8	7	18	39
<b>Dy</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Ti</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Ar</b>	<b>Y</b>

**Activation Energy**, *n*. The useful quantity of energy available in one cup of coffee.

**Bunsen Burner**, *n*. A device invented by Robert Bunsen (1811-1899) for brewing coffee in the laboratory, thereby enabling the chemist to be poisoned without having to go all the way to the company cafeteria.

**Chemical**, *n*. A substance that: 1) An organic chemist turns into a foul odor; 2) an analytical chemist turns into a procedure; 3) a physical chemist turns into a straight line; 4) a biochemist turns into a helix; 5) a chemical engineer turns into a profit.

## A Chemical Thought

The real world is a jumble of awesome complexity and immeasurable charm. ... Yet all this wonder springs from about one hundred components that are strung together, mixed, compacted, and linked, as letters are linked to form a literature.

P. W. Atkins, *The Periodic Kingdom: A Journey into the Land of the Chemical Elements* (1995)

## Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2011

<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>Chair-Elect: Dr. Avinash Ranga</b> Sul Ross State University phone: (432) 837-8116 e-mail: <a href="mailto:arangra@sulross.edu">arangra@sulross.edu</a>
<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>	<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>
<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>	<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>
<b>Past Chair: Dr. Pat Nandakumar</b> Midland College phone: (432) 685-6738 e-mail: <a href="mailto:pnandakumar@midland.edu">pnandakumar@midland.edu</a>	

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).

The ACS Committee on Community Activities invites you to celebrate the International Year of Chemistry!

Host festivals, make presentations at your local school or mall, partner with local civic organizations, and show how chemistry is an international science!

- Develops an awareness of water, its sources, and the importance of water purity with its relevance to sustainability.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Environmental



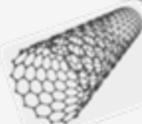
- Coincides with Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED).
- Features viable alternate energy sources as a key aspect of sustainability.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Energy



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Materials

- Focuses on the important aspects of recycling, properties of materials, and nanomaterials.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Health

- Coincides with National Chemistry Week (NCW).
- Features the positive impact of the chemical sciences on the world as it relates to nutrition, hygiene, and medicine.



**Water and the many faces of Chemistry will be included in each theme.**

Let us know how we can help your local section have a successful IYC!  
Contact us at [oca@acs.org](mailto:oca@acs.org).

To learn more about IYC go to [www.acs.org/iyc2011](http://www.acs.org/iyc2011).



# Campus Map

Angelo State University

See <http://www.angelo.edu/map/> for a more complete map

## Angelo State University Campus Map

