



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL
SOCIETY**

PERMIAN BASIN SECTION

Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 6

December, 2011



From the Chair:

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break! As we are nearing the end of the semester and of the year, I would like to summarize for you some of the activities from this past year.

The Permian Basin Section now has a website: <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>. Along with our Newsletter, we will try to keep you abreast of all upcoming activities and news relating to the Section. Of course, you are always welcome to contact directly any Executive Committee member with questions or comments. All contact information may be found below as well as on our website.

Three section meetings were held this year: September 29th, Dr. James Traynham; October 6th, Dr. Jim and Jenny Marshall; and November 3rd, Dr. Dwight Chasar. The audience included members from the local section as well as from the general public. A group of high school chemistry students from Miles High School were in attendance during one of the meetings. We would like to thank their chemistry teacher Frank Simpson for encouraging his students to attend to “see how chemistry is actually used in the real world.” Attendance increased for each meeting with approximately 50 present for the final presentation. Non-technical chemistry talks that would educate the public of the importance of chemistry and, especially to encourage students to become chemists, may be a consideration for future programs.

Students from ASU and UTPB have presented their research at the Spring National Meeting in Anaheim. Officers of the Chemistry Club at both universities also presented club posters. Additionally, students from ASU and Midland College have presented at the Southwest Regional Meeting in Austin. The local section has made travel grants available on a first come-first serve basis to students to supplement their travel to present posters or talks at ACS meetings. Each student is required to apply for the funding, and its awarding is contingent upon a final report within a week after the student’s return from the meeting.

The Section has actively applied for ACS grants to help defray some of the costs for holding various out-reach activities as well as to encourage students to join ACS. Several funded projects are still ongoing.

Annual elections were held in November, and on the ballot was a request to approve the new bylaws of the local section. The bylaws under which we currently operate were written in 1992, and quite a bit has changed. The result of the voting was unanimous approval for the new bylaws. The next step is to forward the results to the ACS Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to prepare its final report and the Section's newly certified bylaws. I have already sent the necessary documentation to C&B.

From the results of the election, the Chair-Elect will be Dr. Pat Nandakumar (Midland College) with Mr. Kevin Boudreaux (ASU) as Secretary and Dr. Kyle Beran (UTPB) as Treasurer.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or problems.

Dr. Kathryn Louie
klouie@suddenlink.net

Upcoming Local Meetings, Events, and Announcements

Results from the Officer Elections

Here are the results from the recent Permian Basin Officer Elections:

Ballots sent: 123

Ballots returned: 38 (response rate of 30.9%)

Officer Elections:

Position	Candidates	Votes Cast
Chair- Elect:	Dr. Pat Nandakumar, Midland College	37
	Write-in	1
Secretary:	Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, ASU	37
	Write-in	1
Treasurer:	Dr. Kyle Beren , UTPB	37
	Write-in	1

By-Laws:

I approve of the new bylaws	38
I do not approve of the new bylaws	0

The Councilor's Report from Dr. David Carter will be available on the web site soon.

American Chemical Society offers college scholarships for minority students to study chemistry

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, 2011 — The American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is now accepting applications from African-American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American students who are pursuing, or intend to pursue, bachelor's degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, chemical technology or related majors.

Renewable awards of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year are given to qualified high school seniors, community college students and college freshmen, sophomores or juniors. The awards are based on academic standing and financial need.

Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2012, for academic year 2012-2013. An online application form can be found on the ACS Scholars Program website (www.acs.org/scholars). Additional information is available by calling 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250, or by emailing scholars@acs.org.

A degree in chemistry prepares students for employment in such varied fields as: medical research and drug design, environmental studies, forensics, food, the search for alternate energy sources, safeguarding national security, and engineering new materials. Starting salaries in 2009 for newly graduated B.S. chemists averaged \$38,250.

ACS established the Scholars program in 1995 to attract underrepresented minorities to the chemical sciences and to build awareness of the value and rewards associated with careers in chemistry. In addition to financial support, the program provides mentoring and research and networking opportunities that help students acquire the skills and credentials needed for a successful career. Since its inception, the ACS Scholars Program has awarded more than \$14 million to nearly 2,400 students. For academic year 2012-2013, ACS expects to award approximately \$1 million to both new and continuing Scholars.

Upcoming National and Regional Meetings

ACS Spring 2012 National Meeting & Exposition

San Diego, California, USA

March 25 – March 29, 2012

Theme: Chemistry of Life



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.

Kevin A. Boudreaux,
Secretary, Permian Basin ACS Section

Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

90	63	6	2	12	53	16	22	16	66	6	22	8	7	18	39
Th	Eu	C	He	Mg	I	S	Ti	S	Dy	C	Ti	O	N	Ar	Y

Grignard, n. A fictitious class of compounds often found on organic exams and never in real life.

Inorganic Chemistry, n. That which is left over after the organic, analytical, and physical chemists get through picking over the periodic table.

Monomer, n. One mer. (*Compare Polymer*)

Natural Product, n. A substance that earns organic chemists fame and glory when they manage to synthesize it with great difficulty, while Nature gets no credit for making it with great ease.

Nitrate, n. Lower than the day rate.

Polymer, n. Many mers. (*Compare Monomers*)

A Chemical Thought

The [periodic] table is one of the most beautiful and profound discoveries of the nineteenth century, but, until quantum mechanics was invented by physicists in the twentieth century, one could look upon it only as a mysterious cipher, a kind of crib sheet that served as an empirical reminder that elements come in families whose members show similar proclivities.

Philip Ball, *The Ingredients: A Guided Tour of the Elements* (2002)

Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2011

<p>Chair: Dr. Kathryn Louie Angelo State University phone: (325)942-2181 e-mail: klouie@suddenlink.net</p>	<p>Chair-Elect: Dr. Avinash Ranga Sul Ross State University phone: (432) 837-8116 e-mail: arangra@sulross.edu</p>
<p>Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 ext. 6623 e-mail: kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu</p>	<p>Treasurer: Dr. Kyle Beran University of Texas of the Permian Basin phone: (432) 552-2238 e-mail: beran_k@utpb.edu</p>
<p>Councilor: Dr. David Carter Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 ext. 6626 e-mail: david.carter@angelo.edu</p>	<p>Alternate Councilor: Dr. John Wiley University of Texas of the Permian Basin phone: (432) 296-8464 e-mail: johnrwis@gmail.com</p>
<p>Past Chair: Dr. Pat Nandakumar Midland College phone: (432) 685-6738 e-mail: pnandakumar@midland.edu</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.