



The Minnesota Chemist

Official Publication of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society

Issue 3, May-June 2018



Greetings from the Chair

Greetings,

Hopefully the freezing rain and snow is behind us, until next year. Despite the unusual April weather, many braved the snow for Erin Scholla and Dr. Vanessa Haase's talk related to extractable or leachable chemical studies. If you missed the presentation but are interested, please contact me. The April meeting was also a pilot for welcoming children to weeknight meetings. There were a few kids in attendance, and going forward we will work hard to improve the quality and frequency of our child-friendly meetings. If you have any comments or suggestions, please reach out.

Looking ahead, we are dedicating our **Tuesday, May 8th** meeting to recognizing our members who continue to help our section thrive. There will be 50 and 60 year member certificates, the Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award, the Janet Torino Volunteer Award, and the 2018 Robert Brasted Award. During dinner, Dr. Mona Minkara, who received a MN ACS graduate travel grant, will give a brief presentation on what she presented at National as well as her role with the Chemists with Disabilities committee. Then Dr. Michelle Driessen will deliver the main presentation on her efforts towards *Shaking up the College Chemistry Lab & Classroom*. Deadline to sign up is May 1st.

Our last event before breaking for summer will be the Summer Social on **Thursday, June 7th**. Private tours have been arranged to view Norseman Distillery's production area. There will be plenty of time to enjoy tours, drinks, food, and some well-deserved warm weather on the daiquiri patio.

If you are looking to fill your time between June and September, consider checking out the "Activities", "Officers", or "Resources" tabs on our website to find opportunities at both the local and national level. The Fall Family Day/Chemistry with Kids activity is already looking for volunteers for September 8th (also my birthday!).

Warm Regards,

Arianna Ahl
amkooyman@gmail.com



May 8 – 2018 Awards Banquet and Meeting

Presenter: Dr. Michelle Driessen, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Chemistry Department, University of Minnesota & 2018 Robert Brasted Award Recipient

Abstract: Dr. Minkara

In my presentation, I will discuss my attendance at the ACS 255th National Meeting & Exposition in New Orleans. I will first summarize the talk I gave on my research on additive

loading into a surfactant bilayer using Monte Carlo simulations. Then, I can delve into my experience of sitting on the Chemists with Disabilities committee for the first time. In this committee, I had a front-row seat to discuss issues in chemistry that people in the disabled community face and to contemplate potential solutions.

Dr. Driessen - Shaking up the College Chemistry Lab & Classroom

Most of us remember sitting through countless lectures and carefully following detailed laboratory procedures during our college years. While we managed to learn in these settings, research shows it is not the best method with which to teach or learn science. The literature shows students learn more and find our field more interesting when we engage them in more active and authentic methods of learning.

My goal over the last decade has been to improve the educational experience and outcomes for students of chemistry. I will share details of the implementation and outcomes of several pedagogical innovations designed to engage students in the learning process: flexible online courses, flipped/hybrid classes, and problem-based laboratories. New grading schemes to demonstrate understanding, rather than class rank will also be discussed.

When: Tuesday, May 8th, 2018

5:00-6:00 pm- Executive Meeting

6:00-7:00 pm- Social & Dinner

6:45-7:00 pm- Talk- Post Doc. Travel Grant Award recipient Dr. Mona Minkara

7:00-7:15 pm- Awards: Lyle Hall, Janet Torino, Robert Brasted and Membership

7:15-8:15 pm- Talk- Dr. Michelle Driessen

Where: DeGidio's

425 7th St. W

St. Paul, MN 55102

Ample and handicap accessible parking available in the main lot or on the street

Dinner: Stromboli, House salad, Bowtie pasta, Mostaccioli, Meatballs, and Dessert

Cost: \$20 Meal Ticket/\$5 Student Meal Ticket. Talk- Free. Please RSVP online. To purchase a meal ticket, go to the Web Store at <http://mnacs.sites.acs.org/>. To RSVP to only the talk, go to the RSVP tab. Send any questions or comments to Arianna Ahl at amkooyman@gmail.com.

Deadline to register is May 1st.



2018 Midwest Regional ACS Meeting in Ames, IA

Dear colleagues,

The Call for Papers of the 2018 Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM) of the American Chemical Society is now open! The meeting will be held next October 21-23 in Ames, Iowa on the campus of Iowa State University. The theme for the conference is "The Critical Role of Chemistry," and we are anticipating both an interesting technical program and ample opportunities for networking for faculty, graduate students, and undergrads. We look forward to the opportunity to host you in Ames.

There are many aspects of regional meetings that lend themselves to student participation, including the modest cost for conference registration. The timing of the 2018 MWRM in the fall is ideal to provide undergraduate students with opportunities to present research advances they make over the summer. Career services activities provided by the American Chemical Society are also likely to be of interest to your students. The chair of the undergraduate program at the conference is Maria Bohorquez from Drake University (maria.bohorquez@drake.edu).

I invite you to visit our web page at: <https://mwrm2018.chem.iastate.edu> to learn more about the program and aspects of the meeting. Abstract submissions are open with a deadline of July 23, 2018. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Holme
taholme@iastate.edu

Minnesota ACS section to host 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting

The Minnesota section will be hosting the great lakes regional meeting here in the Twin Cities in 2021. As we are just starting this process we are looking for ideas and volunteers to help facilitate this meeting. We are looking for planning committee members: program chair, undergraduate activities chair, social events chair, fundraising chair. We will also be looking for members that would be interested in organizing seminar sections around topics of interest. If you have any ideas, input or would like to volunteer or help organize a part of this meeting contact James Wollack (jwollack@stkate.edu) or Ramesh Kumar.



Congrats to Regional and Minnesota State Science Fair Award Winners

2018 REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RECIPIENTS OF MN-ACS SPECIAL AWARDS

The following high school students received a Special Award of \$50 from the Minnesota ACS Section at Regional Science Fairs (those within the MN Section boundaries), sponsored by the Minnesota Academy of Science, in February-March 2018

Mankato Regional Fair: Ava Wentworth, 9th Grade, "*Dissolution Rate of Calcium Tablets*", Hidden Oaks Middle School, (Savage)

Rochester Regional Fair: Rohan Patel, 11th Grade, "*An Innovative Solution Towards Cleaning up Oil Spills*", Mayo High School, Rochester

St. Cloud Regional Fair: Sumayo Karie and Maryama Abdi, 10th Grade, "*Testing the Quality of Bio-Diesel Using FTIR Spectroscopy*", Al-Amal School (Fridley)

Twin Cities Regional Fair: Kerui Yang, 10th Grade, "*A Simple and Inexpensive Sensor for Glucose and Fluoride using Boric Acid*", Edina High School

Judges chose to use their extra certificates to present Honorable Mention awards:

Abigail Fors, 10th Grade, "*Light It Up*", Burnsville High School

Megan Haase, 10th Grade, "*Electro-Lemon*", Burnsville High School

Annalise Purcell, 8th Grade, "*Can I Use the Amylase Enzyme to Break Down Bioplastics?*", Murray Middle School (St. Paul)

2018 MINNESOTA STATE SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

The MN ACS Section has for many years given Special Awards in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Minnesota State Science Fair, sponsored by the Minnesota Academy of Science. The event was held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center on April 16.

Middle School Awards

Top Prize (\$50): Rikhil Seshadri, "*Low Cost, Non-aqueous Based Supercapacitors for Energy Storage*", Math and Science Academy (Woodbury)

Honorable Mentions (subscription to *ChemMatters*): **Maggie Banks**, "*Fruity Power: Creating a Biodegradable Battery*", Stillwater Middle School; **Megan Lindow**, "*Well Water*", Nevis Secondary School; **Annelise Purcell**, "*Can I Use the Amylase Enzyme to Break Down Bioplastics?*" Murray Middle School (St. Paul)

Senior High Awards

Top Prize (\$100): Kerui Yang, "*A Simple and Inexpensive Sensor for Glucose and Fluoride Using Boric Acid*", Edina High School

Honorable Mentions (subscription to *ChemMatters*): **Ariel Butler**, "*Biodegradable Polymers for Protein and DNA Drug Delivery*", Sibley East High School (Arlington);

John Nipp & Elizabeth Payne "*Measuring Everyday Material's Effectiveness at Blocking Radiation*", Lakeville Christian Academy (Farmington); **Reed Thoma**, "*Manure Madness*", Burnsville High School

Thanks to all ACS members who helped volunteer and judge at these Science Fairs, including Diane Amell, Sarah Dimick Gray, Todd Williams, James Wollack, Lynn Hartshorn, and Wayne Wolsey

Wayne C. Wolsey
Liaison between MN-ACS and Minnesota Academy of Science



Congrats to 2018 ACS-MN Award Winners

2018 Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award: Dr. Kenyon (Ken) Latham, Retired Prof. at Century College

2018 Janet Torino Volunteer Award: Dr. Phil Buhlman, Prof. Chemistry Department, University of Minnesota

2018 Brasted Award for Excellence in College Teaching: Dr. Michelle Driessen, Director Undergraduate Studies, Chemistry Department, University of Minnesota



Minnesota ACS Senior Chemists' Group

Please mark your calendars for the last meeting of the Senior Chemists' group this season, which will take place on **Wednesday, May 16** at 11:30 am at the Green Mill Restaurant on Hamline and Grand Avenues in St Paul. Robert Kinney has kindly offered to give a 20 minute informal talk on the topic of J.W. Gibbs and his work in physical chemistry. Parking is available either on the street or in the Green Mill Parking lot about 50 yards west of Hamline on the north side of Grand Avenue.

All are welcome, including new-comers and guests and spouses. The lunches are mainly social events, and include a short program.

RSVP to Lynn Hartshorn at: lghartshorn@stthomas.edu by Monday May 14th at 12 noon.

The senior chemists' program for the fall will also be discussed.
We look forward to seeing you!

Lynn Hartshorn,
Senior Chemists' coordinator
lghartshorn@stthomas.edu

If you have content for The Minnesota Chemist, please send it to Matthew Hammers, Editor (mhammers@umn.edu)

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