

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello and Happy April!

We have so much to look forward to in this second quarter of the year.

This May, I am excited to announce the first in-person meeting of this year! It will be hosted by Claros, where they will be giving a PFAS-related talk. More information will be announced on the local section website.



Another exciting event we have planned is the Annual Award Ceremony set to be in May/June.

Please contact our Award Committee Chair, Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@mmm.com) with your nominations for the **2024 Brastad Award Excellence in College Teaching**, the **2024 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award**, and the **2024 Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award**. We will also be presenting awards to our 50-, 60-, and 70-year ACS members. Please join us in celebrating our community!

Lastly, as we continue efforts to revitalize our local section, we have begun the initial stage of planning for a Strategic Planning Session. This event will take place in Summer or Fall this year, and we, the executive team, will be reaching out to you, our local members, for your interests and desires for the direction of ACS events in 2025, such as social/networking events, special topic talks, etc. More information will be provided as we get closer to that time.

I hope everyone is enjoying this (last?) blanket of snow before spring.

Sincerely,

Catherine Sutton

Chair, Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society

ACS MN Local Section News



Student Winners at the State Science Fair

The State Science Fair was held in St. Paul at the River Center on Friday, March 22. Todd Williams (Lead judge), Ken Bomben, Lijin Shu, and Lynn Hartshorn judged on behalf of the MN section of ACS. We gave the MN ACS Special award, consisting of a monetary gift, to the first-place high school and middle school winners and subscriptions to "ChemMatters" to the runners-up. We also gave certificates to all winners and runners-up.

High School

First Place:

- Erik Hill, Ardashir Kocer and Ezra Weldegabriel: An Investigation of Alternative Lithium Ion Battery Anodes.

Honorable Mention:

- Sriram Sureshkumar: The Effectiveness of Biochar as an Amendment on the Growth of Raphanus Sativus on MSG1. (Mars Global Stimulant)
- Jacob Colton: Effect of Annealing Time on Electropositive Zinc Samples for Use in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells
- Aidan Moeller: Optimizing Algae

Middle School

First Place:

- Divora Adhanom and Lola Currier: An Osmotic Method for the Determination of Coordination Numbers of Simple Sugars.

Honorable Mention:

- Sanvitha Vallurupalli: How Does Acid Rain Affect Different Building Materials?
- Samuel Edson: Destroying Science: Building Materials and Deterioration

Info for the Upcoming In-Person MN ACS Meeting

Topic: PFAS

Date: Thursday, May 2nd

Time:

5:00 pm – Claros Technologies Tour (15 min session),

6:00 pm – Dinner and networking

7:00 pm – Presentation

Location: Claros Technologies, 1600 Broadway St NE Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55413

We will provide additional information closer to the event.

Call for Awards Nominations: MN ACS Awards

2024 Brastad Award Excellence in College Teaching

The Minnesota Section honors excellence in chemistry enterprise through three awards

given on a rotating basis - the Award for Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching, the Minnesota Award for outstanding achievement in a chemistry career, and the Brasted Award for excellence in College Chemistry Teaching. This year the section invites nominations for the Brasted Award for Excellence in College Chemistry Teaching.

The nominee must be actively engaged or retired from teaching chemistry at the college/university level. The nomination packet should include a biographical sketch, a list of publications, and a statement and evaluation of the nominee's achievement. Significant attributes can include quality of the candidate's teaching effectiveness and his/her ability to challenge and inspire students.

Letters of support are encouraged and may come from the department chair, associates, current or former students, and colleagues.

The Brasted Award consists of a plaque and a cash award of \$500; it will tentatively be presented at the May/June 2024 local section in-person meeting. Past winners include Robert Brasted (U of MN, for whom the award was named after his death), Olaf Runquist (Hamline), John Holum (Augsburg), Emil Slowinski and A. Truman Schwartz (Macalester), Richard Borch, Claire Woodward, Gary Gray (U MN), Arne Lansjoen (Gustavus Adolphus), John P. Walters (St. Olaf), John Hill (U WI River Falls), Wayne Wolsey (Maclaster), Gary Miessler (St. Olaf), Dr. Michelle Driessen, Dr. Jane Wissinger (U of M) to name a few.

Please send the nomination to the chair of the Awards Committee, Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@mmm.com) on or before **April 15, 2024**.

2024 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

The Janet Tarino Volunteer Award will be given to an individual for outstanding volunteer service to Minnesota ACS, and/or chemistry-related projects and events not directly connected to Minnesota ACS. This person will have demonstrated an exceptional passion for and commitment to community outreach, and dedication to projecting a positive image of chemists. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$200 which will be presented at the May/June 2024 local section in-person meeting. Nominations should be emailed to Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@gmail.com), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **April 15, 2024**.

2024 The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is based upon preferably post-retirement chemistry related professional activities of a member of the Minnesota ACS Section who has entered into formal retirement from his/her primary job. Professional activities can include volunteer ACS service, volunteer activities in any other scientific organization such as the Minnesota Academy of Science (i.e. Science Fair Judging), professional writing, consulting, and/or research. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$200 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@gmail.com), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **April 15, 2024**.

MN ACS Chapter Assists with Chemical Safety Outreach

By Chuck Wheeler Handlon, MN ACS Education Chair,
chuckwheelerhandlon@gmail.com

There is a great opportunity for high school chemistry, physical science, and secondary science teachers to attain staff development training in chemical safety hygiene and practices. I am working with the University of Minnesota Joint Safety Team (JST) on plans to hold a third two-day workshop that will provide valuable training, resources, staff development Continuing Education Credits and even possible graduate credit. I will present at the first day of the session. Here is the information:

Title: JST Chemical Safety and Better Practices Workshop for High School Teachers

Date: August 8 - 9, 2024

Where: On the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus, Smith Hall

Sign-up Link: <https://forms.gle/xFAisYorYcEU3bkWA>

Description: Register for the Chemical Safety and Better Practices Workshop happening on August 8-9, 2024. Offered annually by the Joint Safety Team of the University of Minnesota. This year is our 3rd offering of the course, which is designed to give a solid foundational understanding of chemistry safety for high school teachers. Topics covered include safety culture, waste handling, safer lecture-demonstration practices, and more! This course can be used to earn continuing education units as well as a graduate credit through the Colorado School of Mines (fee required).

The workshop is open to all teachers in Minnesota, whether in the Metro area or outstate. The program will go from 8:00 AM till 4:00 PM and be structured around lecture presentations, group discussions and hands on activities in the laboratory.

Topics that will be presented include developing best practices and a chemical hygiene plan for teaching chemistry, understanding the proper PPE equipment and protocols for high school laboratory work, understanding chemical storage and chemical waste standard operating procedures, promoting safety culture in the laboratory, and planning effective, safe demonstrations.

Teachers will be given the experience in the laboratory of identifying unknown chemical wastes and safely practicing some exciting chemical demonstrations. The workshop might also include a tour of the University of Minnesota Chemical Waste handling facility.

The Mn chapter of the ACS has provided both funding and support for the JST work on chemical safety. For more information, you may contact Jonathan Nguyen nguy4325@umn.edu or Erin Maines a JST member on the board of the MN ACS maineo3o@umn.edu

In addition to the JST workshop the national ACS is providing CCS High School Chemistry Safety Grants up to \$ 3,000 for teachers K – 12 which might be used for attending an approved ACS, NSTA or AACT safety workshop, purchase PPE or informational materials for the lab, safety professional development, and other possibilities. The application deadline is August 1, 2024. For more information contact safety@acs.org or check this link:

<https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/ccs-high-school-chemical-safety-grant.html?fbclid=IwAR064Qvvh233qpplHTEmk-dXCnQnuh7ge1chqymtAmVvFFhMiTw8YbR4few>

Volunteer opportunities



Chemists-in-the-Library

Chemists-in-the-Library was a success last month in Shoreview! A full list of the remaining events planned for 2024 can be found below. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please contact Phil Buhlmann (buhlmann@umn.edu); he would be grateful to hear from you. No preparation before events is required, and no commitment has to be made; volunteers can sign up for one event at a time.

Chemists-in-the-Library Events 2024

20 Apr, 10:00 AM: Burnhaven Library
18 May, 1:30 PM: Maplewood Library
29 Jun, 1:30 PM: Northeast Library
24 Aug, 1:30 PM: Excelsior Library
21 Sep, 1:30 PM: Southdale Library
19 Oct, 1:30 PM: Minneapolis Central Library
9 Nov, 1:30 PM: Pierre Bottineau Library
7 Dec, 1:30 PM: St. Louis Park Library



Senior Chemists

The Senior Chemists will be meeting on Friday, May 8, so save the date! We will visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art and talk to a conservator about the science of Conservation. We will meet around 10 a.m. and have lunch together after the talk. This will be our first meeting of 2024, so we hope you can all come! Senior Chemists events are open to any ACS or MNACS member who is 55 or older—you don't have to be retired. More details will follow soon.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again!

Lynn Hartshorn and Ken Latham

lghartshorn@stthomas.edu, lathamke@mac.com

MN graduate students at the National ACS Meeting

The MNACS offered \$1000 grants to graduate student travel grant winners Emily Ness and Shahzad Alam to present their research at a national ACS meeting. These two students represented our section at the national ACS meeting in New Orleans. Below are the graduate students' reports.

Emily Ness:

I had the pleasure of attending the American Chemical Society Spring 2024 National Meeting in New Orleans, LA, to present my research and represent the University of Minnesota (UMN). I presented a 20-minute oral presentation on my research about the "Grafting Density-

Dependent Thermodynamic Self-Assembly of Core-Shell Bottlebrushes for Block Copolymer Nanotemplating” in the PMSE Division topic of “Polymers that are Non-linear”. I was able to present and network with several leaders in the field of non-linear polymer architectures. My interactions with the other speakers opened my eyes to the world of polymers that go beyond the block polymers that I specialize in and that are common in the research at UMN.



This year also marked the 100th anniversary of the PMSE Division's founding in the ACS. The PMSE Centennial celebration included many special topic presentations, posters, and award ceremonies. I was able to hear the invited speaker, Andy Lovinger, of the NSF Polymers Division and his career and history with the NSF. His speech was very inspiring to see how far the field of polymer science has grown under his advisement and the great future that the field will have with new and upcoming scientists who were highlighted throughout the ACS meeting.

I was also able to network with a variety of scientists throughout the meeting which has helped grow my insights into future career paths. I was able to connect with group and UMN alumni who now work in national labs and industry to hear their perspectives and learn about what those careers look like. I was also able to meet numerous PUI professors from across the US and get their advice on looking into academic careers and what their career paths looked like. Finally, I was able to connect with professors and undergraduate students from my previous undergraduate institution, Pacific Lutheran University, and share my knowledge about graduate school and research to those students.

Overall, the ACS Meeting was full of fulfilling and engaging events that helped me to progress as both a graduate student in my research and building connections for my future career.

Shahzad Alam:

Attending the ACS 2024 Spring Event was a valuable experience that enhanced my knowledge and professional network. The event provided numerous opportunities to connect with professionals, researchers, and peers in the field of chemistry. I had the opportunity to present my research titled 'Control and Modification of Molecular Potential Energy Surface via Polaritons,' during which I received feedback and engaged in discussions with fellow attendees. I am grateful to the MN ACS section for providing the support that enabled me to participate in this event.



Get The Word Out - Share with Your Local Section Members

Sign up for ACS' Speaker Directory!



Looking for a way to connect with speaking events in areas you have expertise in? Interested in building up your speaking resume? ACS' Speaker Directory is designed to connect experts like *you* with speaking opportunities! ACS Local Sections, Technical Divisions, and International Chapters are looking for a diverse range of speakers for in-person, virtual, hybrid, and asynchronous events.

- Gain visibility on an international level
- Share your expertise
- Grow your professional network

Whether you're a seasoned chemist or starting your career, the ACS Speaker Directory is your gateway to connecting with ACS members in need of talented speakers! **Learn more and sign up for the ACS Speaker Directory Today!**

<https://www.acs.org/officer-toolkit/engage-your-members/speaker-directory.html>

Now Accepting Abstracts for ACS Fall 2024 & Spring Regional Meetings.

Submitting an abstract for **ACS Fall 2024** or a Spring Regional Meeting is an excellent opportunity for chemical professionals and students to showcase their work and connect with colleagues in all areas of chemistry internationally or within your region.

Abstracts are now being accepted for ACS Fall 2024, **August 18 - 22**, the **Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM), June 5 - 8**, and the **Northwest Regional Meeting (NORM), June 23 - 26**. All meetings will feature robust technical programming, networking opportunities, and more!

<https://www.acs.org/meetings/acs-meetings/fall/presenters/submit-an-abstract.html>

Postdoctoral scholars interested in faculty positions - This workshop is for you!

The Postdoc to Faculty Workshop is hosted annually by ACS to provide postdoctoral scholars interested in pursuing faculty positions at institutions of higher

education with guidance and resource that support their job search. The workshop consists of several panel discussions and presentations on topics ranging from finding positions to the application and interview process to navigating the first year. Key features include individual consultations with current faculty, mock interviewing, and networking opportunities. All selected participants will receive free housing and meals during this event. Travel assistance will be available for those who qualify. **Learn more and apply!**



Volunteers Needed for the 2024 Postdoc to Faculty Workshop!

Do you want to give back in 2024? ACS is looking for faculty interested in the role of workshop facilitators to support the ACS Postdoc to Faculty (P2F) Workshop in Philadelphia, PA July 19 – 21, 2024. P2F faculty volunteers will serve as panelists and/or moderators, review 5-6 mock faculty applications from postdoc participants (prior to the workshop), lead mock interviews, and may be asked if they'd feel comfortable presenting on a specific topic (e.g., teaching strategies, mentoring tips, or DEI statements etc.). ACS will cover travel, hotel accommodations and meals for volunteers! **Learn more and volunteer!**



<https://www.acs.org/education/students/graduate/gettingready/academiccareers/postoral-workshop-for-prospective-chemistry-faculty.html>

Calling All Sustainability Stars!

Attention global change-makers! We want to celebrate YOU and your inspiring journey toward a sustainable future. Over the next 8 months, we are searching for 30 chemists from diverse backgrounds to join in a worldwide celebration of Sustainability Stars. Chemists globally play a pivotal role in addressing sustainability challenges aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Whether you're conducting experiments in a lab, shaping minds in a classroom, or navigating the early stages of your career, we invite you to share your impactful journey in solving global challenges with chemistry – and nominate yourself for well-deserved recognition! Winners not only receive global recognition across ACS social media channels but also enjoy exclusive perks like a complimentary registration to the Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference (Virtual or in-person) and a free ACS Premium Membership for one year.



Join the movement, share your story, and nominate yourself to help make chemistry synonymous with sustainability on a global scale! **Submit your nomination** today, and let's shape a sustainable future for all!

<https://www.acs.org/sustainability/sustainability-stars.html>



Visit our Website

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