
The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Greetings! I hope the start of summer has been safe and healthy for you all! The Great Lakes Regional Meeting hosted by our section was an absolute success. The meeting was organized by James Wollack and Ramesh Kumar as well as countless others who put in time as well. The engagement of our local section was seen with the number of symposia and attendance at all of the talks, workshops, and networking events. A highlight for me was hosting a full day of talks showing the tremendous work locally and nationally elevating diversity and inclusion in chemistry. Please be sure to complete the survey the MN Anti-racism group has linked below to continue this important work! I also enjoyed hosting virtual “chemistry” bingo with my son as well! Please be sure to read on for numerous ways to engage with the section including award nominations. I hope to see you all again at events this coming fall.



Best,
Michael Wentzel



STEM Girls: Cool Chemistry!



Presented by: Women in Science & Engineering - University of Minnesota Twin Cities

When: Friday August 13th, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Smith Hall

207 Pleasant Street Southeast

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Abstract: The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) chapter at the University of Minnesota is excited to announce their annual STEM Girls: Cool Chemistry event for Friday, August 13th, 2021. This is a day of hands-on chemistry experiments for girls entering grades 7-9. The day includes four chemistry workshops, explosive demonstrations, and a liquid nitrogen ice cream break! Please spread the word to local schools, neighbors, family and friends that registration for this event is OPEN!

Registration [Eventbrite page](#) or our [website](#)



Updates from the Local MN ACS Section

Opportunities for Shaping the Future of Chemistry

By Chuck Wheeler Handlon, MN ACS Education Chair,

It seems like every day our “new normal” moves back toward what we all once knew as “normal”. As a scientist I have never liked the phrase “new normal”. I believe “norms” cannot be established until there is sufficient data. During the pandemic events were happening with such rapidity decisions had to be made without sufficient data to determine “norms”.

That aside, as we move through summer we head toward what I hope will be a more “normal” or traditional education system. I would like to encourage all members of the ACS to consider engaging with teachers and students at all levels to promote chemistry

STEM careers and provide the expertise and knowledge of the applications of chemistry in many science and engineering fields.

There is a web program that can facilitate volunteering. Called, [Future Forward](#), it is a free tool which is being utilized to connect industry and business professionals with educators and students. Future Forward was recently rolled out to over fifty private and public schools of southeast Minnesota including Rochester. I encourage ACS members and their companies to visit Future Forward and to consider creating a profile. I will highlight more about this tool in a later issue of the Minnesota Chemist. Please contact me via [email](#) if you would like more information.

Another way to become involved is to consider being a “Science Coach”. Science Coaches are chemistry professionals that are paired with a teacher (K-12) and establish a relationship over the school year. Teachers and coaches have at least six meetings. The coach can assist the teacher in a number of ways including professional expertise on applications of chemistry, lab activities (teachers receive \$ 550 for supplies) or helping the teacher understand difficult chemical concepts.

If you know of a teacher who is a member of AACT and wants to be paired with you, apply together. Otherwise you may apply to be a coach and will be paired with a teacher. The deadline for applications is September 1st and participants will be notified by October 1st . If you are a chemistry professional (academic or any other capacity) check [here](#) to Apply to be a coach.

The Minnesota Antiracism Group

The Minnesota Local Section Antiracism Group is working within our section to support Goal 5 of the ACS Strategic Plan, Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry. In collaboration with the chairs of the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM 2021), diversity and inclusion became the focal point of this meeting.

The GLRM 2021: Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry program included sessions, featured speakers, and workshops dedicated to diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR). These activities all started with the reading of [Goal 5 of the ACS Strategic Plan](#):

“Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees, and volunteers can thrive.”

Great attendance at these events indicates that MN ACS cares and supports DEIR!

Are you interested in joining and supporting the DEIR efforts of the Antiracism Group? If you did not complete this form during the meeting, please complete [this very short survey](#).

Those who complete the form will receive an email invitation to join a virtual discussion of DEIR efforts on **July 27th starting at 8 pm**.

Thank you all for your efforts to, “promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees, and volunteers can thrive.”

Embrace the Goal!

With Appreciation,

The Minnesota Local Section Antiracism Group: Edgar Arriaga, Amanda Case, Sarah Mullins, William Pomerantz, and Michael Wentzel



Senior Chemists July Meeting: Outdoors!

As we discussed at our last virtual meeting on Tuesday June 29th, the first in-person meeting of the Senior Chemists Group for this season will be held on Thursday July 29th from 11:00 am to 02:00 pm at the Como Park Picnic Shelter. (This is not the Como Park Pavilion by the lake, this is a smaller covered open shelter with room for about 50 people, with tables and nearby restrooms. It is across the road from Como Zoo, close to the Mini Golf, at the junction of Midway Parkway and Hamline Avenue, where we held our previous picnic. You can see it on google maps [here](#)).

Please bring your own picnic. The picnic shelter is reserved for our group . Friends and spouses are welcome. If you want to come early, there are several walking trails nearby, or you can visit the Conservatory or the Zoo. (you will need to reserve for these on the St Paul Parks site since space at these is limited)

RSVP for our meeting to Ken Latham at lathamke@mac.com
We look forward to seeing you!
Lynn Hartshorn



Summaries of 2021 Science Fairs supported by MN-ACS

Submitted by Wayne Wolsey, Liaison between MN-ACS and MAS

The MN-ACS Section again in 2021 supported Science Fair Activities for 6-12 students in Minnesota through providing Special Award Judges along with corresponding Special Awards.

The annual Minnesota State Science Fair, organized by the Minnesota Academy of Science, was held virtually from March 23rd-30th.

The outstanding Senior High Project in Chemistry/Biochemistry was again the team project of Kroul and Greco (see above). Each student received a check for \$50.

The outstanding Middle School Chemistry/Biochemistry project was shown by Elizabeth Smart (Gr=9, Crookston), "Dry Hands?, No Problem!". She received a check for \$50.

In each grade category, Senior High and Middle School, there is the option to designate three additional projects for Honorable Mention. Every student, whether doing an individual or a team project receives a one year subscription to ChemMatters, an ACS publication aimed at the high school level.

Honorable Mention Projects this year were submitted by:

- Jack Johnson (Gr=6, Grand Rapids), "The Best Northern Minnesota Campfire".
- Lauren Craig (Gr=7, Coon Rapids), "Exploding Experiments".
- John Biebighauser (Gr=8, Moorhead), "S'more Science, The Effects of Materials on a Burning Marshmallow".

Thanks to Lynn Hartshorn, Todd Williams, Dr. Jenifer Kimbrough (Univ. of MN, Twin Cities), Professor Mike Wentzel (Augsburg U.), and Professor Emeritus (Macalester College) for judging at this Science Fair.

Twin Cities Regional Fair (tcrsf)

tcrsf was held virtually again in 2021 during the last weekend of February. Our major focus at Regional Fairs has been Chemistry and Biochemistry projects at the High School level.

A team of two students from Breck School, Benjamin Kroul (Gr=12, Plymouth, MN) and Dominic Greco (Gr=12, Robbinsdale, MN) worked together as a team on "Mighty MOFs: Using Novel Catalysts to Produce Components of Recyclable Plastics".

Each team member received a check for \$25.

Judges for this competition were Professor-Emeritus Lynn Hartshorn (Univ. of St. Thomas) Wayne Wolsey (Macalester College), and Dr. Todd Williams (ret'd 3M).

Minnesota State Science Fair

Senior High Projects:

Benjamin Kroul's and Dominic's project was again chosen as top Senior High Project (see above) with each student receiving a check for \$50.

Middle School Projects:

Elizabeth Smart (Gr=8, Crookston, MN) showed a project titled: "DRY HANDS, NO PROBLEM!". She received a \$50 check for the top middle school chemistry prize.



Travel Grants for the Fall ACS Meeting

Travel grants are available to attend the fall ACS meeting in-person at Atlanta, Aug 22nd-26th.

- 2 grants of \$750 each for graduate students. Applications can be found [here](#).
- 1 grant of \$500 for faculty at a liberal arts or community college in the areas served by our section. Application can be found [here](#).

Note that you must already be registered for the national meeting. Applications must be submitted by July 30th at noon.

If you have difficulty downloading the application, try a different browser. Direct questions to [Letitia Yao](#).



Call for Awards Nominations: MN ACS Awards

2021 Brasted 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 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 September/October 2021 local section 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 (Macalaster), Gary Miessler (St. Olaf), Dr. Michelle Driessen to name a few.

Please send the nomination to the chair of the Awards Committee, Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@mmm.com) on or before **August 10th, 2021**.

2021 The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is based upon post-retirement 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. Nominations (including no more than 2 seconding letters) should be sent to Ramesh C. Kumar at rckumar0051@gmail.com. A CV is useful. The Awards Committee may also select an award recipient, based upon their collective knowledge of the activities of an individual. The award consists of a plaque which will be presented at the September/October 2021 meeting of the section. The deadline for completed nomination is **August 10th, 2021..**

2021 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 which will be presented at the September/October 2021 meeting of the section. Nominations should be sent to the Chair of MN ACS Awards Committee, Ramesh C. Kumar at rckumar0051@gmail.com on or before **August 10th, 2021..**



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