



The Minnesota Chemist

Official Publication of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society

Issue 1, Jan - Feb 2018



Greetings from the Chair

Before jumping into 2018, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of 2017. Thank you to all who helped with reaching out to the community ([Chemists in the Library](#)), communicating news to members ([Minnesota Chemist Newsletter](#) + [Website](#)), including all generations ([Fall Family Day](#) + [Senior Chemists](#)), encouraging science and research ([Chemistry Olympiad](#) + [Science Fairs](#) + [Symposiums](#) + [NoBCChE Conference](#)), continuing education ([Leadership Development Course](#)), creating job opportunities ([Career Fair](#)), and helping whenever and wherever needed.

As a local section, we believe in committing ourselves to the goals and missions of the broader ACS for the benefit of the earth and its people, with regards to science. We are confident our section continues to achieve many of the ACS's objectives: advancing science, advocating for chemistry, enabling career development, educating the public, supporting future chemists, and promoting diversity through the programs and partnerships we continue to develop and support. In order to continue to drive our mission, we need more involvement from section members. There are many [committee positions](#) wanting to be filled. Resources and guidance will gladly be provided. Contact myself (amkooyman@gmail.com) or another member listed on the Officers tab. Add another facet to your career as a scientist while also serving the scientific community.

I am excited for 2018 and its upcoming events. Stay posted for future details.

January 9th – Invention, Innovation & Patents

February 6th – Undergraduate Education Panel

March 6th – Minnesota Technical Symposium (MinnTS)

April 3rd – Leachables and Extractables (Children encouraged to come for dinner. Free childcare provided during the talk)

Happy holidays. I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Arianna Ahl



2018 MN ACS Officer Election Results

Election results are in! Thank you to everyone who participated!

Chair Elect: James Wollack

Secretary: Kate Capistrant

Councilors (2018 - 2020): Sarah Mullins, Becky Guza

Alternate Councilors (2018 - 2020): Nick Schlotter, Ramesh Kumar

Nominations Committee, Industry: Ramesh

Nominations Committee, Small School: Rita Majerle

Nominations Committee, University of Minnesota: William Pomerantz



January 9 - Invention, Innovation & Patents

Speaker: Chris Frank, Founder & CEO of Idea Visor, LLC

Location: H.B. Fuller – 1200 Willow Lake Boulevard, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110.

Park anywhere in the main parking lot and enter the main entrance. The Willow Lake Room is to the right of the security desk. Please see the [attached map](#) for a visual of parking, the entrance, and the meeting room.

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 Executive Committee Meeting (Willow Lake Room)
6:00 - 7:00 Social and Dinner (Willow Lake Room)
7:00 - 8:00 Talk (Willow Lake Room)

Cost: \$20 member or non-member / \$5 student

Menu: Smoked Marinated Brisket, Grilled Ginger Chicken, and Coconut Shrimp Tacos, Corn Tortilla Chips and House Salsa, Dessert, Assorted pop and water.

RSVP: Please let us know if you are coming to the meeting. If you are coming to the dinner and use PayPal below, that is sufficient. If you are just coming to the talk, have dietary needs, or any other questions please contact [Arianna Ahl](#).

Meal Ticket: Go to the "[Web Store](#)" link on the [MN ACS](#) page to purchase meal reservations through PayPal. You can use PayPal as a guest without creating an account.

Deadline: January 2, 2018

Abstract: In this introductory presentation you will learn the basic concepts of patent law so that you can: 1) Identify potentially patentable ideas; 2) Understand what the patent process looks like from the point of view of an individual inventor as compared to that of a corporate scientist or engineer; and 3) Understand the difference between an invention and an innovation and how this framework will help make you a more effective scientist or engineer. Finally, we talk about how to use the patent system to identify new opportunities for innovation and come up with better ideas faster!

Speaker Bio: Chris Frank is the Founder & CEO of Idea Visor, LLC where he helps businesses identify white space opportunities for innovation using the patent landscape. He has provided patent and innovation strategy, portfolio management and idea management services and workshops to some of the world's leading organizations in medical technology, food science and consumer technology spaces. From 2012 – June 2017 he founded and was Program Director of the Master of Science in Patent Law Program at the University of Minnesota where he also developed and taught the Capstone Innovation course.



February 6 - The Future of the Undergraduate Chemist

Panel Discussion:

Invited faculty include: R. Lee Penn, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Director of Undergraduate Studies, UM; John Thoenke, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Co-Chair of the Chemistry Transfer Pathway Team for Minnesota State schools, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN.; Ron Brisbois, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and member of the ACS Committee on Professional Training, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.

Invited industry hiring managers include: Fred LaPlant, Ph.D., Advanced Product Dev. Specialist, Biopharmaceutical Purification, 3M Company, St Paul, MN; Alan Tsukerman, M.S., Manager of Chemistry and Analytical Services, Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Maple Grove, MN.; Scott Pettibone, M.S., Manager Analytical Chemistry, WuXi Apptec, St. Paul, MN; and David Burleson, Ph.D., Program Leader, Global Analytical & Microbiology, Ecolab, Eagan, MN.

Moderator: Bruce Bear, M.S., adjunct faculty, retired industrial chemist

Location: Augsburg University – 2211 Riverside Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454

[Directions](#) to campus from the major highways. Park in Short-Term Visitor Lot E or off-campus. Dinner hall location TBD. The panel discussion will be held at Augsburg's new science hall, the Hagfors Center. Please see this campus [map](#) for a visual.

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 - 7:00 Social and Dinner (Location TBD)
7:00 - 8:00 Panel Discussion (Hagfors Center)

Cost: \$20 member or non-member / \$5 student

Menu: TBD

RSVP: Please let us know if you are coming to the meeting. If you are coming to the dinner and use PayPal below, that is sufficient. If you are just coming to the talk, have dietary needs, or any other questions please contact [Arianna Ahl](#).

Meal Ticket: Go to the "[Web Store](#)" link on the [MN ACS](#) page to purchase meal reservations through PayPal. You can use PayPal as a guest without creating an account.

Deadline: January 30, 2018

Abstract: In a recent issue of the ACS publication C&EN Chemical and Engineering News, Donna Nelson, Ph.D., ACS Immediate Past President stated "current chemistry degree course requirements are misaligned with employer expectations of graduates' skills". She also added, "ACS-approved degree programs should be evaluated for their use in producing employable chemists. Cross-functional training, which bridges new and traditional fields of chemistry, should be evaluated for its impact on student employment prospects". ACS surveys of recent bachelor of chemistry graduates show that for the years 2014 to 2016, the nationwide unemployment rate remained between 12 and 13 percent. Surprised? For the year 2016, approximately 40% of surveyed undergraduate chemists had plans to go on to graduate school. The unemployment rate for undergraduates is presumably much better here in the Metro and Midwestern area of the country, but regardless, this is something to be concerned about.

We have pulled together a panel of local faculty and industry hiring managers to explore and discuss current educational programs and hiring practices. Are our colleges producing a surplus of chemists? Are the current chemistry programs being offered providing the education and training that industry needs currently and desires in the future? Is it necessary for our students to continue on to graduate school or into other fields like medicine to feel rewarded and make a respectable salary? What does the future hold for the undergraduate chemistry major?

An excellent event for current undergraduate chemistry majors, chemistry faculty, and hiring managers.



Senior Chemists' Group

Lynn Hartshorn

The Senior Chemists' Group Holiday Lunch was held Wednesday, December 6th at the Green Mill Restaurant in St. Paul. A free buffet lunch of pizzas and salad was provided. Two science related books were reviewed. Scott Anderson reviewed the book "Alone in the Universe" by John Gribbin. This book discusses the possibility of life being found elsewhere in the Universe. Joan and Richard Newmark reviewed "The War on Science" by Shawn Otto, which discusses the fact that some people no longer believe in evidence-based science but cling to other beliefs. Richard and Joan also passed out a handout about how scientists can help with this problem. Four science related books were given as door prizes. 24 people attended the lunch and all enjoyed it. Some volunteer opportunities were also discussed.

Mark your calendars for the next lunch for the Seniors group which will be held at the Green Mill restaurant in St. Paul on Wednesday, February 6th at 11:30. The program is not yet set, and Lynn would be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in giving a 20 minute informal talk about some aspect of science. Please email Lynn. (lghartshorn@stthomas.edu) if you would like to give a talk or have an idea about developing a short talk. New members, spouses and guests are all welcome. Check out the MN ACS website for details: mnacs.sites.acs.org and watch your emails for reservation information in January.

Happy New Year to all!



Call for Nominations – 2018 Brasted Award for Excellence in College Chemistry Teaching

Ramesh Kumar

The Minnesota Section honors excellence 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. 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 May 2018 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 (Maclaster), Gary Miessler (St. Olaf) to name a few.

Please send the nomination to the chair of the Awards Committee, Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@mmm.com) on or before March 15, 2018.

Call for Nominations – 2018 The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

Ramesh Kumar

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. rckumar0051@mmm.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 deadline for completed nomination is March 15, 2018.

Call for Nominations – 2018 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

Ramesh Kumar

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 May 2018 meeting of the section.

Nominations should be submitted electronically to the Chair of MN ACS Awards Committee, Ramesh C. Kumar (rckumar0051@mmm.com) before or on March 15, 2018.



6th Annual MN ACS Chemistry Career Fair

James Wollack

The 6th annual MN ACS Chemistry Career Fair was held on Tuesday, November 14th at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. St. Catherine University provided space for this event and the section only had to pick up charges for event set up and food costs. These costs were offset by contributions from the following event sponsors:

Verum Technical, Pace Analytical, Beckmann Coulter, Aerotek, Experis, University of Minnesota Division of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Minnesota High Tech Association. The section would like to thank these companies and organizations for their contributions. They help make this annual event possible after seed funding from the National ACS was used to fund the event in its early years.

The event was a success. Over 125 scientists attended the fair to meet with representatives from nearly twenty different companies, graduate programs, and organizations. Attendees included students from over fifteen different colleges and universities as well as scientists looking for new career opportunities. If your company is interested in being represented at next year's fair please contact James Wollack at jwollack@stkate.edu.

Thank you to Career Fair Sponsors:

Verum Technical	Pace Analytical
Beckmann Coulter	Aerotek
Experis	Minnesota High Tech Association
St. Catherine University	MN ACS
University of Minnesota Division of Environmental Health Sciences	



**Volunteer
Opportunities**

Upcoming Chemists-in-the-Library Events

Philippe Buhlmann

January 20 at 1:30 PM – Augsburg Park Library
 February 10 at 1:30 PM – Highland Park Library
 March 10 at 1:30 PM – Dayton's Bluff Library
 April 7 at 1:30 PM – Riverview Library

Science Fair Judges Needed

Rich Walsh

The Stillwater School District's DaVinci Fest is in need of science fair judges. Winning students in grades 6 through 12 will have the chance to proceed on to the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. Judges' comments and scoring at Da Vinci Fest are intended to help participants achieve greater success at those levels.

Da Vinci Fest is a day-long celebration of arts and sciences, with student works from Stillwater public, parochial and charter schools as the primary function of the morning. This "Super-Bowl" of science and art gives students a chance not only to take their projects from school out into public arenas for further state and national competition, but more importantly to hear from professionals in the Twin Cities arts and science communities who can provide constructive critique and suggestions for further improvements and work!

We are still looking for more judges and hoped to reach out to you to see if you would be willing to help on Saturday, January 6. Here are the details:

Key Dates & Times: Da Vinci Fest - Saturday, January 6th, 2018

ARRIVAL & PREPARATION:**Arrival Time: 8:00am (coffee and muffins)**

Judge's Information meeting and student assignments: 8:15am - 8:45am

Where: Stillwater Area High School, **Room E116****Science Judging in TWO SESSIONS:**

Judging Session I Time: 9:00am -10:30am

Judging Session II Time: 11:00am -12:30pm

Where: Stillwater Area High School, **Main Gym****EVENT OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR VIEWING*: anyone is welcome to come but you are not required**

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

AWARDS CEREMONY*: anyone is welcome to come, but you are not required here

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Contact: Kristie Smith, [651-341-4016](tel:651-341-4016)/smithk@partnershipplan.orgFurther Info: <http://partnershipplan.org/da-vinci-fest/>

If you have content for The Minnesota Chemist, please send it to Becky Guza, Editor (becky.guza@hbfuller.com)

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