

The Minnesota Chemist



The Chair's Corner

Michael Wentzel

Happy New Year! I am excited to begin work as the MN ACS chair for this upcoming year. Please be sure to look at our section website for more information about events and ways to become more involved (<https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/>). Please reach out if you are interested in being involved with the section! There are a number of events being planned for the upcoming year that we will be sharing with you, but of particular note is the upcoming ACS Great Lakes Regional Meeting hosted by our section (<https://www.glrn2021.org/>).

We hope you considered presenting and attending as there are a number of diverse and interesting planned symposia!

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during this time.



Open Executive Committee Position with the Local ACS Section

The Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society. (Mn-ACS) is looking for a current or retired High School Chemistry teacher to be a part of the Mn-ACS Executive group. The executive group is an active group of chemists, both working and retired, representing local industry as well as academia. The executive committee plans monthly sectional meetings (currently virtual) as well as leads many local outreach programs such as Chemists in the Library, Chemistry Olympiad, Science Fairs, Project SEED, and Senior Chemists. Further information can be found on our [website](#).

The American Chemical Society strongly encourages AACT members to join the ACS. There is no charge for joining. This volunteer would serve as a liaison between secondary schools and our section. In addition she/he would be involved in activities that assist in chemistry teaching in secondary schools, such as arranging for ACS section members to talk briefly to classes about careers in chemistry/science, or to go into classrooms and do simple hands-on activities, or to help provide small grants from the section for getting equipment, and/or assist chemistry teachers in other ways. He/she could begin by working with one school of his/her choice, and perhaps involve others later. We encourage retirees

to apply!

Please contact : Lynn Hartshorn, Councilor, at lghartshorn@stthomas.edu or Michael Wentzel, current chair, at wentzelm@augsborg.edu for more information or to volunteer.



2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM): Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry.

The call for papers for the 2021 Great Lakes Regional meeting has been issued. The meeting will take place virtually June 6th to 9th.

Details, including names and contact information for program and session chairs, can be found on the meeting website at www.glr2021.org. The final program summary will be published in C&EN in the Spring; the online program will be available on April 12th.

The key note symposium will highlight elevating the importance of diversity and inclusion in chemistry. In addition to 29 technical symposia the virtual meeting will include: a variety of limited capacity networking discussion sessions, workshops on “Chemistry and the Law” and “Empowering Academic Researchers to Strengthen Safety Culture”, ACS leadership workshops and a virtual career fair.

The symposium sessions include “Agricultural and Food Chemistry”; “Agribusiness”; “Biologically Related Molecules and Processes”; “Biotechnology”; “Chemical Biology”; “Chemical Business: Resources and Best Practices”; “Chemical Education Research”; “Chemical Research in Toxicology”; “Chemical Safety”; “Crystallography in the Undergraduate Curriculum”; “Distance Learning in Chemical Education”; “Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry”; “Green Chemistry”; “General Topics in Analytical Chemistry”; “General Topics in Inorganic Chemistry”; “General Topics in Physical Chemistry and Spectroscopy”; “Materials Chemistry”; “Medicinal Chemistry”; “Medical Devices”; “New Organic Reaction Development”; “Sustainable Polymers”; “Metal Organic Framework”; “Nanomaterials”; “Obtainable Sustainability in Industrial Applications”; “Organic Chemistry at PUIs”; “Organometallic Chemistry”; “Reflections of Senior Chemists”; “Sustainable Polymers”; “Natural Product Synthesis”; and “Undergraduate Research in the Inorganic Curriculum”. Each symposium will include an option for PIs, professionals, post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduates to present.

ACS's Meeting Abstracts Programming System (MAPS) opens on January 18th 2021 for abstracts. Please visit either the symposium website or MAPS at maps.acs.org, to submit an abstract. Abstracts are due March 1st 2021.

Call for Awards Nominations at the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM)

Four awards will be given at the meeting. A description of each and a link to its application are below. Please encourage your Board/members to nominate worthy individuals for these awards. The deadline for the Stan Israel Diversity award is March 1st, 2021 and any nominations for that award should be submitted to National as indicated in the nomination information. All other nominations should be submitted no later than April 1st to James Wollack, jwollack@stkate.edu, as Awards Chair for the meeting.

In 2006, The Division of Chemical Education established an endowment to underwrite an Awards Program designed to recognize, encourage, and stimulate outstanding teachers of high school chemistry in the ten Regions of the American Chemical Society.

Nominees must be actively engaged in the teaching of chemistry or a chemical science in a high school (grades 9-12) on at least a half-time basis. The Region Award consists of a \$1,000.00 cash award and an engraved plaque. Travel expenses to the meeting at which the Award will be presented will be reimbursed.

Additional information and the application details can be found [here](#). Only complete application portfolios will be considered. Deadline for receipt of the applications is April 1st, 2021.

Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences

The Stanley C. Israel Regional Award recognizes individuals and/or institutions who have advanced diversity in the chemical sciences and significantly stimulated or fostered activities that promote inclusiveness within the region.

The award consists of a medal and a \$1,000 grant to support and further the activities for which the award was made. The award also will include funding to cover the recipient's travel expenses to the ACS regional meeting at which the award will be presented.

Nominees may come from academia, industry, government, or independent entities, and may also be organizations, including ACS Local Sections and Divisions. The nominee must have created and fostered ongoing programs or activities that result in increased numbers of persons from diverse and underrepresented minority groups, persons with disabilities, or women who participate in the chemical enterprise. The deadline is March 1st.

Further information and a link to the online application can be found [here](#).

E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society

Purpose: To recognize the volunteer efforts of individuals who have served the American Chemical Society, contributing significantly to the goals and objectives of the Society through their regional activities.

Eligibility: A nominee must be a member of the American Chemical Society residing in a local section within the region, and will have made significant contributions to their region of the American Chemical Society. The volunteerism to be recognized may include a variety of activities, including but not limited to the initiation or sponsorship of a singular endeavor or exemplary leadership in the region. *Past and present members of the ACS Board of Directors and staff are ineligible for this award.* The awards committee of the region, or its equivalent, will select the recipient. The deadline is April 1st. More information can be found [here](#).

Establishment & Support: This award was instituted in 2006 by ACS Past President E. Ann Nalley as part of her presidential initiative to recognize ACS volunteerism. It is Dr. Nalley's wish that the award continue in perpetuity at each regional meeting.

Partners for Progress and Prosperity Award

Purpose: To encourage and recognize successful and exemplary partnerships, a Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award was established as an award to be given by Local ACS Sections, ACS International Chapters, and ACS Regional Meetings.

These partnerships can be between industry, academia, government, small business and/or other organizations, including ACS local sections, ACS divisions, ACS international chapters, other societies or various entities domestic or overseas resulting in impactful

outcomes in one or more of the following categories:

- Improving the public perception and appreciation for chemistry
- Promoting career advancement opportunities and/or supporting entrepreneurship in the chemistry enterprise
- Advancing advocacy efforts with government and other thought leaders
- Supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education and/or research

Eligibility: A nominee may represent academia, industry, government, small business or other organizations such as a Local Section. Partnerships can include international ACS chapters, ACS divisions, or other entities domestic or overseas. The awards committee of the ACS Regional Meeting Board or the local section or international chapter will select the P3 Award winners. The International Activities Committee will select the winners of the Global P3 Award. The deadline is April 1st.

Contact Susan Shih if you have any questions.
Awards Chair, Great Lakes Region Board.
susanmshih@att.net



Joint Safety Team at UMN

The Joint Safety Team (JST) at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities is a student led initiative focused on promoting a culture of safety in the departments of Chemistry (CHEM) and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science (CEMS). Students can be involved in the JST at the lab level by serving as lab safety officers (LSOs), or at the organizational level by joining one of our three committees: Education and Resources, Analysis and Compliance, or Public Relations. LSOs are responsible for conveying safety information and maintaining safety compliance with University standards. In contrast, the committees are tasked with various responsibilities to enhance a global safety education across the departments. Education and Resources hosts bimonthly safety education events for the lab safety officers, and provides resources to LSOs to help with ensuring safe lab cultures. Analysis and Compliance organizes lab walkthroughs every semester where LSOs audit safety adherence of other labs, and runs a semesterly survey to determine safety perceptions across the departments. Public Relations maintains social media presence, publishes safety posters throughout the departments, and develops safety moments for presentations at our departmental seminars.

More information on our organization can be found on our [website](#), and in our publications ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

Recently, we have expanded the JST to include a new committee, dubbed "Community Connections", which will be tasked with spearheading new outreach activities within the region. We hope this will take place in two forms. Firstly, we aim to create protocols for doing chemistry demonstrations safely that can be shared with any organization that is engaged in such activities. We hope this will help spread safety awareness as part of outreach demonstrations to enhance scientific literacy. Secondly, we want to build collaborations with local undergraduate institutes to help set up their own safety teams, either as a new organization or as extensions to the activities of existing chemistry or science clubs. These safety teams would be closely tied to ours, and students from those organizations would be welcome to attend our own safety events and would have access to our resources and expertise. We also envision inviting these students to come observe how we conduct our walkthroughs, and conversely send volunteer LSOs to help students conduct their own. We believe that this would be a good career development opportunity

for MN undergraduate students. We also hope that this opportunity would empower local undergraduate students to feel more confident when they approach safety after graduation at the industrial or graduate school level.

If you are a student or a faculty member at an undergraduate institute and are interested in collaboration with our organization, or if you have an outreach activity that you feel could benefit from the inclusion of a safety component, please email Zoe Maxwell at maxwe235@umn.edu.

Volunteer opportunities

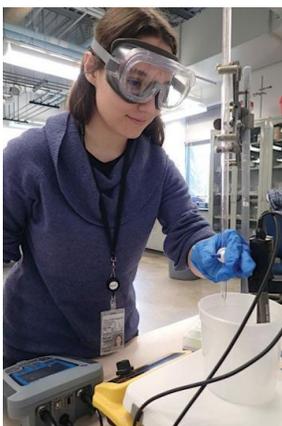


February 13th: MN Middle School Regional Science Bowl
Kris Fowler, Manager
651-917-3994, KFowler@mnmms.org

February 26-27th: Twin Cities Regional Science Fair--Virtual (formerly in Warner Coliseum at State Fair Grounds).
More info can be found at tcrsf.net

March 26th (8:00 am)--28th (7:00 pm): Minnesota State Science Fair -Virtual Format
Sara Gomez, Director (612) 643-0627

April 24th: Winchell Symposium/Annual Meeting of MAS --Crown College, St. Bonafacius
Wayne Wolsey
wolsey@macalester.edu



Request for Proposals to Host a Green Chemistry Intern this Summer

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is offering a \$12,000 grant to support a Minnesota facility or organization in hosting a Green Chemistry & Engineering Intern in summer 2021.

The purpose of the grant is to advance the process or practice of green chemistry and engineering within the host organization, while providing a good learning experience for the intern. The intern's time (10-12 weeks, usually starting May to mid-June) can go to designing new products or production methods, improving existing ones, developing tools which support wider use or sales

of products with green and safer chemistries, or to other projects which fit the grant's purpose.

Of course, projects must now fit within COVID safety protocols. 2020 grantee Sasya was able to safely work around COVID concerns to operate their lab and finish their project in September. Sasya's work and that of the previous four recipients is summarized [here](#). Application materials and how to submit clarifying questions are available at the same URL.

The deadline for applications is March 8th, 2021.



To All Our Senior Chemists

I would like to wish all of our Senior Chemists in the Minnesota Section a Happy New Year! We have been unable to have regular activities since the beginning of the pandemic, but as soon as we can safely do so we plan to start monthly activities again. So please let me know if you have ideas for talks, tours and activities we can do when it is safe. Our activities will continue to take place around lunch time so we do not have to drive at night.

If you are interested in a group Zoom event before we can meet in person then let me know and we will arrange it. Please check that the email address that ACS uses for you is valid, because that is the basis of the email list that Ken Latham uses to send out notices and updates. If you are going to change it soon, or if you have not been receiving regular notices from Ken Latham and me, then please let Ken know of your email address. His email is lathamke@mac.com. I hope that you are all staying healthy and safe, keeping active and engaged during this time.

With best wishes from Lynn Hartshorn, lhartshorn@stthomas.edu



Chemistry Shorts

Chemistry Shorts is a new series of brief films that spotlight innovative ways that chemists and chemical engineers are working to solve important problems and create new opportunities. Each film is accompanied by a lesson plan that offers suggestions on how to integrate it into the classroom.

The first three films and lesson plans are available at <https://chemistryshorts.org>

*Direct Air Capture & The Future of Climate Change, with Christopher Jones (Georgia Tech)

*Under the Skin, with Zhenan Bao (Stanford)

*Rewriting Life, with David Liu (Harvard)

Chemistry Shorts is also on YouTube and Twitter:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/chemistryshorts>

<https://twitter.com/chemistryshorts>

ACS Career Navigator

Home for career services, leadership development, in-person, online and On Demand professional education courses and market intelligence resources. Go to:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/campaigns/membership/career-navigator.html>



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