

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello Minnesota Chemists,

Last year we ended on a fun note with a holiday party at Urban Growler (thank you, Rebecca Haley!) and the promise of a continued group revitalization in the form of obtaining the Strategic Planning Retreat grant (thank you former Chair, Katya!).



I'm looking forward to this year as we return to in-person activities and in fact, we are off to a great start. Take a look at the volunteering events that will be newsletter features like judging science fairs, chemistry demos, and Chemists-in-the-Library. Of course, don't forget to keep up with the ever-active Senior Chemist Committee and the Younger Chemists Committee!

I would also like to welcome our new officers: Chair-Elect Stephanie Harris and new Secretary, Janie Salmon.

Happy New Year,

Catherine Sutton

Chair, Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society

ACS MN Local Section News

Welcome to New Local Section Members!

Elections for Executive Committee positions were held in November. We would like to extend a generous welcome to all our newly elected members.

- Stephanie B. Harris, Ph.D., Washington Technology Magnet School, will serve as our incoming Chair-Elect for 2024.
- Janie Salmon, Ph.D., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, will act as the Secretary.
- Sarah Mullins, Ph.D., 3M Company, and Ramesh Kumar, Ph.D., Hamline University, were elected as Councilors.
- Edgar A. Arriaga, Ph.D., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Blair Troutt, Ph.D., UW River Falls, will serve as alternate Councilors.

Thanks to all who voted!



Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting Travel Grants from the MN ACS Section

Grants are available to support travel to the Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, March 17-21.

Two \$1,000 travel grants are provided for senior graduate students to present their research at the ACS national meeting. Application criteria and instructions can be found [here](#).

One \$500 travel grant is provided for chemistry faculty at PUI or community colleges to attend the ACS national meeting. Application criteria and instructions can be found [here](#).

The deadline for both is March 1st at noon.

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 (Macalester), 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 **March 31, 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 **March 31, 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 **March 31, 2024**.

Volunteer opportunities



Chemists-in-the-Library

Chemists-in-the-Library is kicking off this month at East Lake Library! A full list of the events planned 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

17 Feb, 1:30 PM: East Lake Library
16 Mar, 1:30 PM: Shoreview Library
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

Science Fair Judges Needed!

We need volunteers for the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair, and the MN State Science

and Engineering Fair. Volunteers will be asked to judge the entries and give out awards from the ACS MN Local Section.

The Twin Cities Regional Science Fair will be held March 1-3 at the Lee and Rose Warner Coliseum at Clough St. and Judson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. This is on the State Fair grounds off Como Ave. in St. Paul. Judging is Friday, March 1st from 4-9pm. Judges should register in advance on the Twin Cities Regional Fair website. Please let Lynn Hartshorn (lghartshorn@gmail.com) know if you can judge, or if you have questions. Our section normally provides three or four judges for this event. You do not need experience to do this since help will be provided at the Fair. If you cannot make it by 4pm, you can come later. Supper is usually provided.

The MN State Science and Engineering Fair will be held Friday, March 22 at the St. Paul River Center in St. Paul (175 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102). Please see the website for details of times, available food, how to register as a judge, etc., and let Lynn Hartshorn (lghartshorn@gmail.com) know that you can judge. Again, we will need several judges since our section gives awards. This is organized by the Minnesota Academy of Science and details are available on their website: mnmas.org. You do not need to have experience with judging science fairs.



ACS National News

Plan now for IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast 2024

Join the global chemistry community in Catalyzing Diversity in Science by:

- Building active networks of people of all genders
- Overcoming barriers to gender equality
- Promoting professional and inclusive practices

Learn more about hosting or attending events on February 27, 2024, as **ACS celebrates the IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast**.

<https://www.acs.org/education/outreach/iupacglobalwomensbreakfast.html>



Framing Our Safety Programs with RAMP



The "RAMP" acronym was introduced as a way to remember the Four Principles of Safety: Recognize hazards, Assess risks of hazards, Minimize risks of hazards, and Prepare for Emergencies. This risk assessment framework forms the cornerstone of all chemical safety education resources developed by the ACS and its volunteers and members, solidifying the Society's commitment to its core value of safety. **The ACS Center for Lab Safety** serves as the hub for all ACS safety offerings, including a plethora of RAMP-based online courses, videos, booklets, and vast guidance. Contact the ACS Office of Safety Programs with any inquiries at safety@acs.org.

<https://institute.acs.org/acs-center/lab-safety.html>

Get involved with Project SEED!

Do you know about Project SEED? For over 50 years, **Project SEED** has provided summer research experiences to high school students all over the United States. Now is a great time to get involved. The program is open for new project proposals from December 1, 2023 until February 8, 2024.



Please visit the **Project SEED website** for more information and contact projectSEED@acs.org for any questions.

<https://www.acs.org/education/students/highschool/seed/coordinate.html>

Nominations for Heroes of Chemistry are now open!

Innovation paired with commercial success is worth recognizing. The Heroes of Chemistry Award is one of ACS's highest industry honors, recognizing companies which have developed successfully commercialized products that have had an impact on the welfare and progress of humanity. 2024 nominations are now being accepted through **February 1**.

Any private or publicly owned for-profit company may nominate a team of chemists or allied scientists. Information on team eligibility is found on the **HOC page**. The company nominating the technology must be the current owner of the technology. Celebrate your company's hard work and success in innovation – **nominate today!**

[https://www.acs.org/funding/awards/heroes-of-chemistry.html?
sc=230101_news_nom_acsmtrs](https://www.acs.org/funding/awards/heroes-of-chemistry.html?sc=230101_news_nom_acsmtrs)



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