



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL  
SOCIETY**

**PERMIAN BASIN SECTION**

**Newsletter**

*Volume 7, Number 1*

*April, 2014*



Letter from the Chair:

I hope all of you “survived” the deep freeze of the last couple of months relatively unscathed. Our West Texas weather will shift back to “normal” in upcoming weeks and perhaps bring some needed rain with it. In the meantime, the local section is planning several section meetings for the year that will include a speaker series for the fall. The local section is also in discussion about holding a summer social. This social will provide an opportunity for our members to socialize, of course, and network.

We held our annual election in November. We currently do not have a Chair-Elect. If you are interested in running for this position for next year, let us know. If you have any questions about this position (and the Chair position), please do not hesitate in contacting us. As always, our contact information may be found at the end of the newsletter.

The local section has other projects in the incubator and will keep you informed as they develop. Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or problems.

Dr. Kathryn Louie  
klouie@suddenlink.net

### **Councilor Corner**

**Highlights from the 2014 Spring ACS National meeting:**

1. The Permian Basin local section was part of a realignment of Electoral Districts approved by Council at the September 2013 National Meeting. All Texas local sections are now in the same electoral district. Our new district is IV and our district director is Rigoberto Hernandez. I had attended the first District IV Caucus this meeting.
2. The Council voted to set the member dues for 2015 at the fully escalated rate of \$158. This rate was established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

3. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Peter K. Dorhout and William A. Lester, Jr. as candidates for 2015 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

A detailed report may be found on the website <http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>

## Upcoming Local Meetings, Events, and Announcements

We're still working on lining up some speakers for the Permian Basin section in the fall. Updates will be posted on the Permian Basin web page (<http://permianbasin.sites.acs.org/>) when we have something scheduled.

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Angelo State University (ASU) chemistry students and faculty will host an Art and Science Family Day on Saturday, April 12, at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA). It will also be the opening weekend of the 20th San Angelo National Ceramic Competition. Explore art and chemistry with interactive tours in SAMFA's galleries led by ASU chemistry students every 30 minutes between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Additionally the Texas Open Source Project will be leading tutorials on open source software and exhibiting design techniques for SAMFA's 3D printer.

## Upcoming National and Regional Meetings and Programs

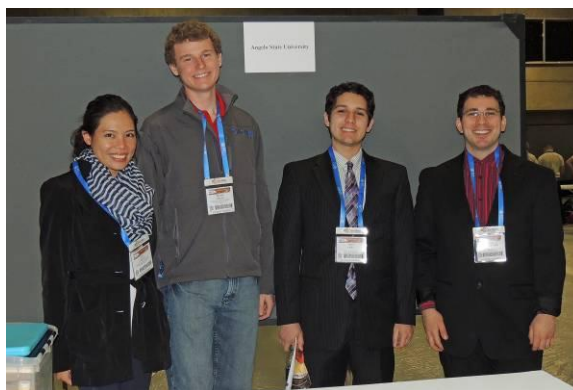
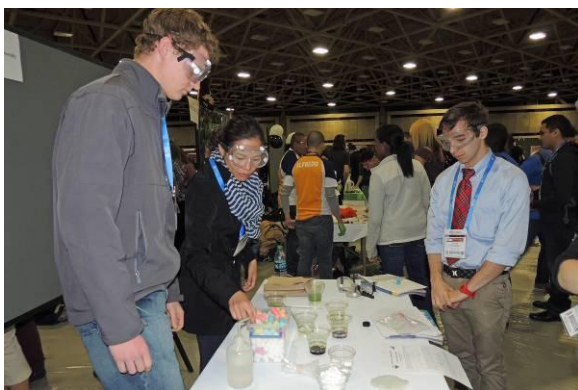
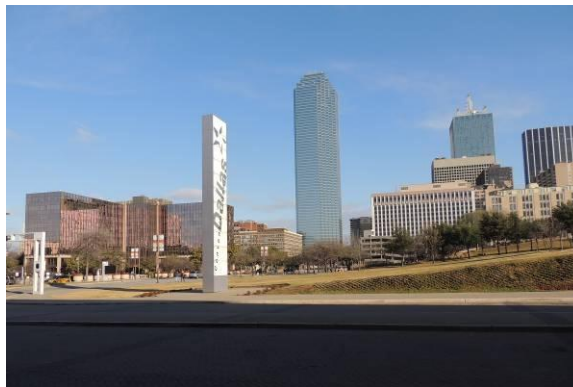
**248<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition – Fall 2014**  
San Francisco, California, USA  
August 10-14, 2014  
**Theme: Chemistry & Global Stewardship**



## Permian Basin News

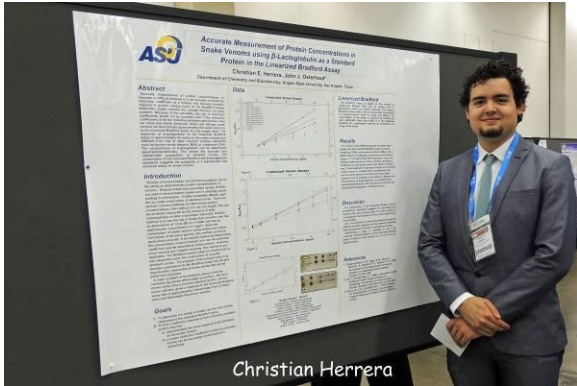
The faculty advisors for the ASU student chapter of the ACS, Dr. Edith Osborne and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, took nine students, Ivan Pena, Blake Holle, Ana Allen, Jason Livingstone, Marissa Saulnier, Alexis Mobley, Christian Herrera, Brandon Allen, and Josh McGuire, to the 247<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Dallas, Texas, from March 15 to March 18. They received a

Green Chemistry award and a Commendable chapter award at the Student Chapter Awards Ceremony on March 14 for the chapter's activities during the 2012-2013 academic year. They also took part in the Chem Demo Exchange, with a demonstration of the water solubility and biodegradability of starch-based packing peanuts. They presented three research posters at the Undergraduate Research Poster Session on March 15, and a chapter activity poster at the Sci-Mix on March 15. Dr. Chris Hobbs and Dr. Raph Zehnder also took three of their research students, Binhong Lin, Adrian Hernandez, and Matthew Smith, to the meeting, where they presented two research posters.

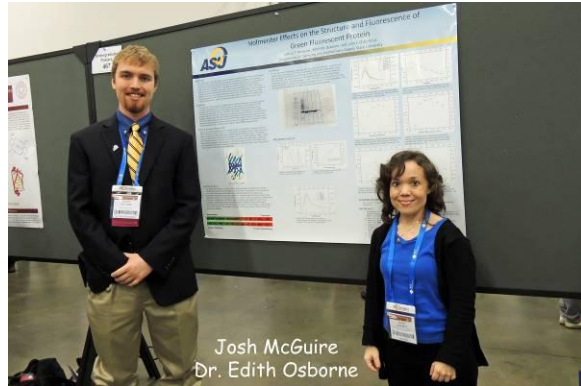


Commendable Chapter Award  
Green Chemistry Award  
Alexis Mobley

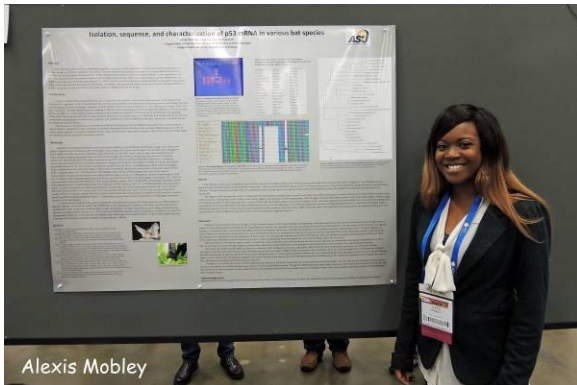




Christian Herrera



Josh McGuire  
Dr. Edith Osborne



Alexis Mobley



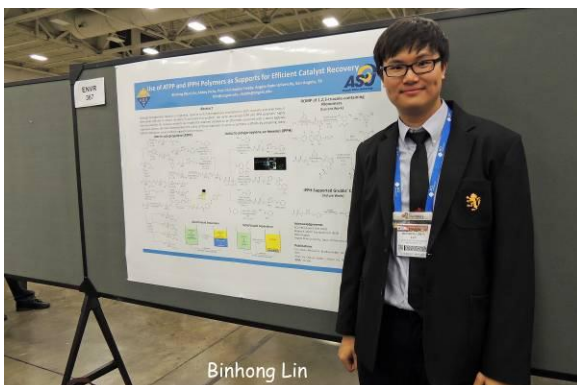
Adrian Hernandez  
Dr. Ralph Zehnder  
Matthew Smith



Marissa Saulnier  
Christian Herrera  
Brandon Allen



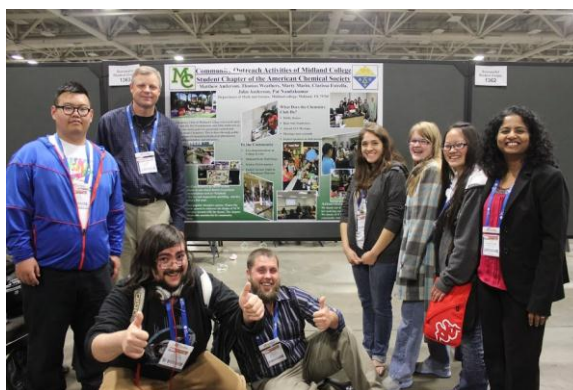
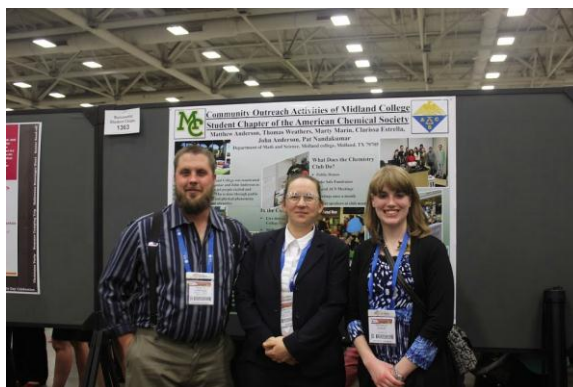
Brandon Allen  
Christian Herrera

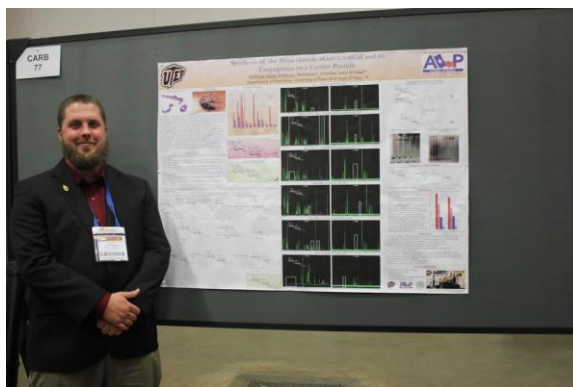
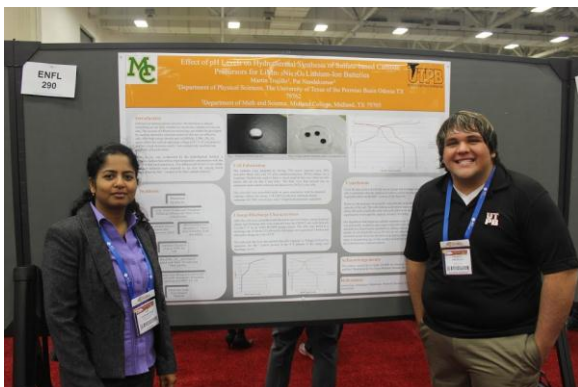


Binhong Lin



The faculty advisors for the Midland College student chapter of the ACS, Dr. Pat Nandakumar and Mr. John Anderson, took six students, Staley Anderson, Thomas Weathers, Clarissa Estrella, Yung Wang, Xuan Ding, and Virginia Anderson, to the 247<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Dallas, Texas, from March 15 to March 18. They received an Honorable Mention chapter award at the Student Chapter Awards Ceremony on March 14 for the chapter's activities during the 2012-2013 academic year. They presented two research posters at the Undergraduate Research Poster Session on March 15, and a chapter activity poster at the Sci-Mix on March 15.





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Angelo State University hosted an Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) program on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The EYH program is designed to motivate young women to enter the STEM fields. A number of workshops and hands-on activities were conducted during the day, and the event concluded with a Science Demonstration in which students from the ACS and the Society of Physics alternated doing chemistry and physics demonstrations. Dr. Kathryn Louie organized the workshop “The Chemistry of Art” and was assisted by Dr. Edith Osborne and ACS student members Lacey McMurtrey, Ana Allen, Randi Mowrey, and Caitlin Burton.

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The ACS student group at ASU attended three “Math and Science Nights” at Santa Rita Elementary (February 6), Lamar Elementary (February 13), and Fort Concho Elementary (March 25). They performed several demonstrations, including Elephant Toothpaste, the Ketchup Diver, the Blue Bottle and Traffic Light solutions, the Magic Candle, and Guncotton. They also handed out copies of the “Celebrating Chemistry” booklet from the ACS.

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The AC student group at ASU also assisted with the Science Days program at ASU, in which students from the fourth grades in local elementary schools are given tours of the science departments, do some hands-on science demonstrations, and are treated to a Magic Show. These took place on February 20, February 25, and February 27.

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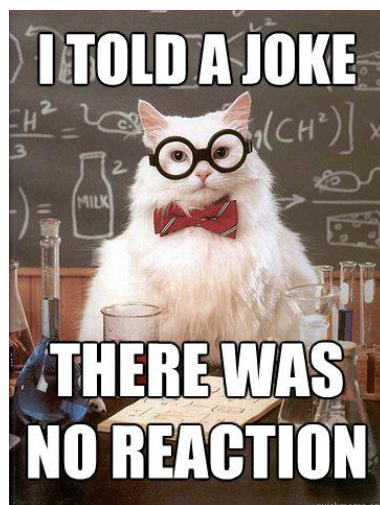
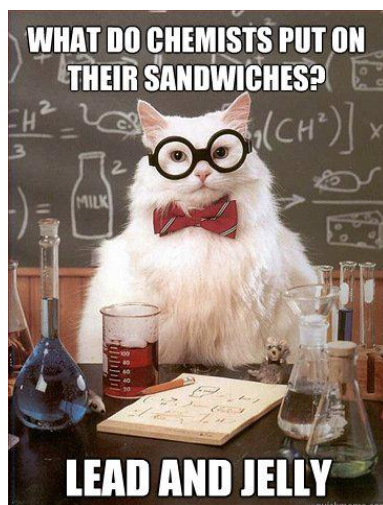
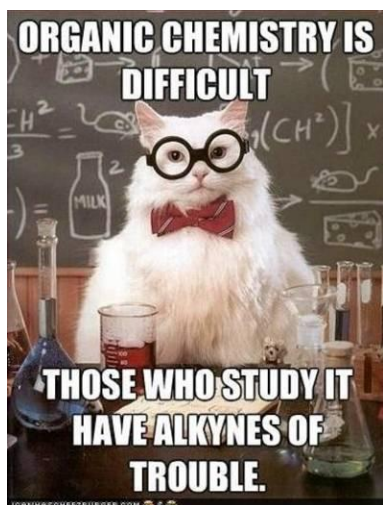
National Chemistry Week activities were held in Midland Mall on Oct 26, 2013. Ten members facilitated the hands-on activities. About 500 attended the activities supervised by Dr. Pat Nandakumar.



On April 4, Midland College held a Science Extravaganza. More than 2000 6th graders from the Midland area visited the science departments. A lot of chemistry demos were set up, including dry ice and magnesium, potassium permanganate and glycerine, potassium chlorate and sugar, oobleck, magic sand, glowing pickle, and solar cell demos. The student group also handed out Celebrating Chemistry booklets. The finale, "Blast with Liquid Nitrogen," was performed by Dr. Pat Nandakumar and her student volunteers Staley Anderson (Chem Club President), Thomas Weathers (Secretary), Clarissa Estrella (Treasurer), Andrea, and other chem club members.

## Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

A few jokes from the Chemistry Cat:



## A Chemical Thought

... Mendeleev's Periodic Table, which just during those weeks we were laboriously learning to unravel, was poetry, loftier and more solemn than all the poetry we had swallowed down in liceo; and come to think of it, it even rhymed!

Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table* (1975), "Iron"

## Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2014

<b>Chair: Dr. Kathryn Louie</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 e-mail: <a href="mailto:klouie@suddenlink.net">klouie@suddenlink.net</a>	<b>Treasurer: Dr. Kyle Beran</b> University of Texas of the Permian Basin phone: (432) 552-2238 e-mail: <a href="mailto:beran_k@utpb.edu">beran_k@utpb.edu</a>
<b>Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 ext. 6623 e-mail: <a href="mailto:kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu">kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu</a>	<b>Alternate Councilor: Dr. Christopher Hobbs</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 486-6627 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Christopher.Hobbs@angelo.edu">Christopher.Hobbs@angelo.edu</a>
<b>Councilor: Dr. Kathryn Louie</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 942-2181 e-mail: <a href="mailto:klouie@suddenlink.net">klouie@suddenlink.net</a>	<b>Past Chair: Dr. Christopher Hobbs</b> Angelo State University phone: (325) 486-6627 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Christopher.Hobbs@angelo.edu">Christopher.Hobbs@angelo.edu</a>

If you have news about local activities, student activities, new employees, new members, good (or bad) science/chemistry jokes, or any other events related to the local section that you want to be included in the newsletter, please send the information to [Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu](mailto:Kevin.Boudreaux@angelo.edu).