



**AMERICAN CHEMICAL
SOCIETY**

PERMIAN BASIN SECTION

Newsletter

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Note from the Chair

John Osterhout
chair<at>permianbasinacs<dot>org
April 16, 2021

Students. Our student chapters are very active for a small section such as ours. Check out the reports on recent activities in this newsletter.

Remote meetings. Thanks to a METT (Members Engaging Through Technology grant) the section started to use remote meeting software for Executive Committee and other meetings. The original motivation was simply the distances involved in our section. Since then, COVID-19 has been another motivating factor. The section has planned a student officer meeting in the fall in addition to our regular Executive Committee meetings. If you would like to use the remote meeting software (currently Zoom) for section business, please contact the chair, John Osterhout.

Web page. Just a reminder, you can access the Permian Basin Web Page at: <https://permianbasinacs.org> The site is in a bit of flux while we sort out how to manage it, but you can still find lots of good information. Please visit.

Student Research Symposium. The section is planning a student research symposium in the fall. It is tentatively scheduled for the second week in September. It will be open to students in the Permian Basin Section. The symposium will be conducted remotely in deference to the distances involved. Details will be posted on the web page and will be in future newsletters or announcements.

Lack of Participation. Lack of participation is not a problem unique to the Permian Basin Local Section. Most sections, small and large alike, suffer from low member interest and involvement. Our problem stems from our small size (128 members) scattered over thousands of square miles of West Texas. This makes it difficult to get together to do things. We are hoping that our remote meeting software will open some opportunities for collaboration. Suggestions are welcome.

Councilor Corner

The in-person Spring National Meeting in San Antonio was terminated and moved to a virtual format. The Council Meeting was held virtually on March 24, 2021.

Highlights from the 2021 Spring Council Meeting:

1. Committee on Meetings and Expositions reported the Spring 2021 Meeting will be held virtually, with the live portion from April 5-16, followed by 2-weeks of on-demand access. There will be 120 scientific sessions held live per day, with live Q&A to follow, and visibility of other attendees in the room. The price for registration has been significantly reduced to \$99 for ACS Members and \$29 for students. To date, 8,724 abstracts have been accepted.
2. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Judith C. Giordan and John C. Warner as candidates for 2022 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
3. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates **for Directors-at-Large for 2022-2024 terms: Rodney M. Bennett, Arlene Garrison, Natalie A. LaFranzo, and Lee H. Latimer**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on or before October 1, 2021.
4. Council approved the *Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms*, as amended. The petition will become effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors; however, existing committee assignments will start a transition to the term limits on January 1, 2022.
5. Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities*.
6. Council approved the *2022 Schedule of Membership*, upon recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs.
7. Council approved the Distribution Formula for Division Allocations upon the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities.

A detailed report may be found on the website <https://permianbasinacs.org/>

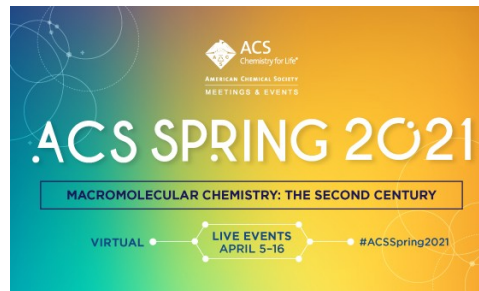
Upcoming National and Regional Meetings and Programs

ACS National Meeting & Exposition – Spring 2021

Virtual

Live Events April 5-16

Theme: Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century

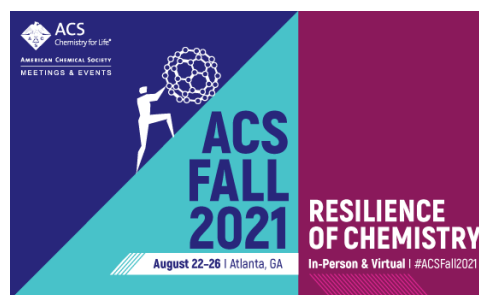


ACS National Meeting & Exposition – Fall 2021

In-Person & Virtual

August 22-26 | Atlanta, GA

Theme: Resilience of Chemistry



Southwestern Regional Meeting (SWRM)

Austin, TX

AT&T Hotel and Conference Center

Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2021

Theme: Chemical Innovations for Global Challenges



Permian Basin News

Sul Ross State University was successful in bringing back the Welch Foundation Chemistry Department Research Grant for 2021-2024 that will be used to pay for four-five undergraduate students each Summer II to undertake applied research in chemistry.

NOTE: News about you makes this publication interesting for our members. Please take a few minutes to jot down what you are doing.

- 1) Speeches, papers, symposia, invited talks
- 2) Publications, patents, grants awarded

- 3) New positions, appointments, promotions, awards, honors, retirements, postdoctoral research
- 4) Offices held in professional societies
- 5) Avocational achievements, miscellaneous

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, April 18-24, 2021

The Permian Basin Local Section celebrated Earth Week by providing copies of **Celebrating Chemistry** to include in the art kits distributed by the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts for their virtual Art and Science Family Day on April 10, 2021. Included were also copies of hands-on activities that could be done at home. (also, see article about the ACS Student Chapter at ASU.)

Virtual ACS Kids Zone – A Free Online Chemistry Event Celebrating #CCEW and #EarthDay2021 on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM Eastern US.

The ACS Committee on Community Activities and President H. N. Cheng will host a [virtual Kids Zone](#) presidential outreach event as part of ACS Spring 2021 and [Chemists Celebrate Earth Week](#) (CCEW). The online educational event will take place on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, from 1:00-2:00 PM ET. Experienced science educators will lead viewers through three activities. The interactive Kids Zone event combines the CCEW and Earth Day 2021 campaigns to explore how the chemistry of very big molecules can help understand, solve, and prevent environmental problems.

Registration is required to attend: <http://www.acs.org/kidszone>

ACS Student Chapter News

In conjunction with the Sul Ross State University (SRSU) McNair STEM Friday public outreach program, the SRSU Chemistry Club hosted “Franken-Science” on Friday 30th October 2020. Approximately 45 SRSU students, faculty, staff and students from Alpine High School attended this event outside the SRSU Library (Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library). Everyone that turned up to this event were encouraged to have fun with Halloween themed hands-on scientific experiments including the making of slime, the creation of a witches brew, and the Mentos/Diet Coke volcano.

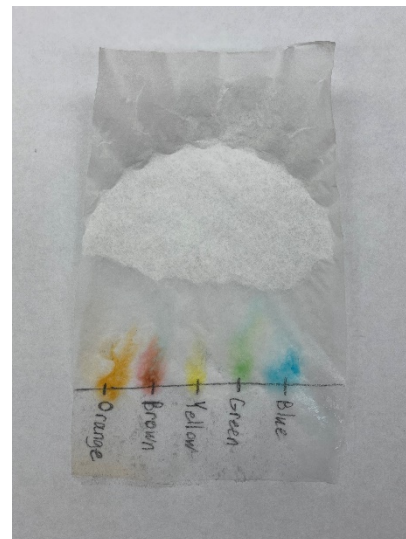
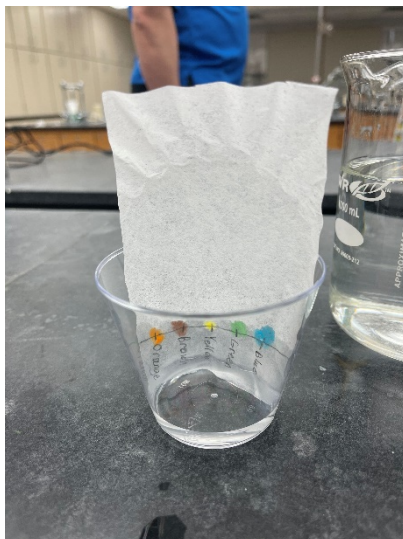
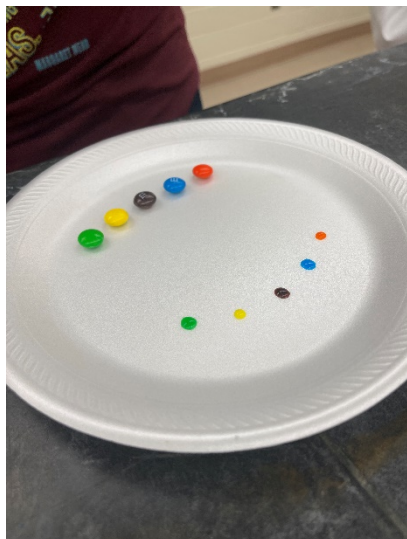




On Monday 5th April 2021 the SRSU Chemistry Club participated in Spring Carnival at SRSU. The SRSU Chemistry Club sold rosemary/garlic bread mixes and the Chemistry Club discussed the chemistry behind making bread. The Chemistry Club also had a competition of how high students/staff/faculty/community members could launch acid-base rockets into the sky! The winners won SRSU Chemistry Club T-shirts.



The ACS Student Chapter at ASU filmed some demonstrations for the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts for their Art and Science Family Day on April 10. This is a virtual event, but it does include an art kit that visitors can pick up at a drive-thru at the museum, or in the Gift Shop, which includes the supplies to do “Candy Chromatography” and separate some of the dyes found in hard candies such as Skittles and M&M’s. More information can be found at: <http://samfa.org/family-day>



A Chemical Thought

I loved the discovery chemistry offered. I loved the thrill of experiment, the challenge of trial and retrial. I loved the puzzle of it. I also will admit a somewhat foolish fondness toward the apparatus involved. The bottles and tubes. The acids and salts. The mercury and flame. There is something primal in chemistry, something that defies explication. Either you feel it or you don't.

Patrick Rothfuss, *The Wise Man's Fear* (2011)

Chemists Just Want To Have pHun

Daffy Definitions:

First Order Reaction, *n.* The reaction that occurs first, not always the one desired. For example, the formation of brown gunk in an organic prep.

Grignard, *n.* A fictitious class of compounds often found on organic exams and never in real life.

Inorganic Chemistry, *n.* That which is left over after the organic, analytical, and physical chemists get through picking over the periodic table.

Permian Basin ACS Local Section Officers 2021

<p>Chair: Dr. John Osterhout Angelo State University (retired) phone: (520) 548-7028 e-mail: John.Osterhout@angelo.edu</p>	<p>Treasurer: Dr. Milka Montes University of Texas of the Permian Basin phone: (432) 552-2233 e-mail: milkamontes@gmail.com</p>
<p>Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux Angelo State University phone: (325) 486-6623 e-mail: kevin.boudreaux@angelo.edu</p>	<p>Chair-Elect: Dr. Kathryn Louie Angelo State University phone: (325) 947-1369 e-mail: klouie@suddenlink.net</p>
<p>Councilor: Dr. Kathryn Louie Angelo State University phone: (325) 947-1369 e-mail: klouie@suddenlink.net</p>	<p>Alternate Councilor: Dr. John Osterhout Angelo State University (retired) phone: (520) 548-7028 e-mail: John.Osterhout@angelo.edu</p>
	<p>Past Chair: Dr. Pat Kesavan Midland College phone: (432) 685-6738 e-mail: pkesavan@midland.edu</p>

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.