

the Catalyst



ACS
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May 2017
Volume 102, No. 5



May Speaker
Sam Kean, Science Writer

HIGHLIGHTS

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ADVANCE NOTICE

JUNE MEETING

Thursday, June 22, 2017

11:15 AM – 3:00 PM

Luncheon Honoring 50- 60- and 70-Year Members

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/philadelphia-section-ac-s-june-event-tickets-33274752681>

The Union League
140 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

See the JUNE issue of *the Catalyst* for details,
call the Section Office at (215) 382-1589 or email PhilaACS@gmail.com.

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Comments From the Chair



Deborah Cook

Many of us just returned from the ACS National Meeting and Exposition in San Francisco, CA. If you have never attended a National Meeting, I highly recommend that you do. This meeting had 18,850 attendees. It was the largest attendance for a National Meeting in San Francisco. On my return flight, I was sitting next to a chemical engineering graduate student from Princeton University. This was his first ACS National Meeting. He mentioned how impressed he was with the wealth of information and excitement of the experience. Over

6,900 students attended the meeting: a very impressive number.

This month Philadelphia Section will honor our local educators by awarding the Excellence in Teaching Awards to a high school chemistry teacher, Delores Wright, from Chester High School, and an undergraduate chemistry educator, Scott Van Bramer, from Widener University. Our speaker for the event will be Sam Kean. Sam is a *New York Times* bestselling author. He will talk about his book, *The Disappearing Spoon*, which considers every element on the Periodic Table and explains each one's role throughout history. Other popular books by Sam Kean include *The Dueling Neurosurgeons* and *The Violinist's Thumb*. Sam has been published in, among others, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Magazine* and has been featured on several NPR programs. I hope you will be able to join us at the University of the Sciences on May 18th to hear Sam Kean and to honor our outstanding educators.

In June we will be honoring our 50-, 60-, and 70-year members at a luncheon on June 22nd at The Philadelphia Union League. Specifics are being planned and will be available closer to the event. Our Section is fortunate to have 39 50-year members, 27 60-year members, and 4 70-year members. Biographies and pictures of our 50-year members will be published in the June *Catalyst* along with the names of the other honorees. Being a member of ACS for this long is very impressive and quite an accomplishment. Just think of the changes and number of advancements that have occurred in science in general, and chemistry in particular, as well as elsewhere during this time. I think it only fitting that we recognize and honor our long-standing members with a large audience to cheer them on.

Finally, I want to announce that the Board has approved the appointment of a new Chair of the Communications Committee that works on publishing *the Catalyst* among other activities. Please welcome Liliana Suarez as she assumes this important role. Liliana will be following in the capable footsteps of Marge Matthews who has been the Communications Chair for many years. I want to thank Marge for her long service and congratulate Liliana for her appointment. Marge will continue to serve on the Communications Committee along with the rest of the committee members. I feel confident that *the Catalyst* is in very good hands and that it will continue to serve as one of our primary communication organs.

Respectfully, Deborah Cook

NEWS ATOMS—Alan Warren

DEATHS

Mary Kenly Gall, retired industrial and information chemist, February 11th at 94. She worked for Hayden Chemical, Penn's Medical School, McNeil Laboratories and then Rohm and Haas where she worked in agricultural chemicals and later in the library. There she edited an internal technical newsletter, *Developments in Chemistry*. She left Rohm and Haas and joined Mobil Research Labs where she performed early work with computers to manage data and conduct patent searches.

Mary Gall served the Philadelphia Section ACS as secretary. She supported the Chemical Heritage Foundation and its initiatives with women in chemistry, and was interviewed as part of their oral history program. She was a 60+-year member of ACS.

Rudolph Steinberger, research chemist, March 2nd at 92. He joined Hercules, Inc., in 1950 and held research positions at several company locations. His main focus was on rocket propellants and polymer fibers for carpeting. Steinberger was named research and development manager at the Wilmington headquarters 1981-1986 whereupon he retired. In retirement he served on the Kennett Square planning and historical commissions.

Henry R. Drott, retired clinical chemist, March 8th at 76. He was a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow and held a European Molecular Biology Organization fellowship at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Drott joined Children's Hospital in 1977 and later was named scientific director of clinical chemistry.

He was affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as an assistant professor of biophysics and served as clinical assistant professor of pediatrics from 1999 to 2007 while working at Children's Hospital. He retired in 2007. He was active with the Boy Scouts and was a Master Mason.

John G. Nikelly, retired professor of analytical chemistry, March 11th at 88. He worked briefly for Exxon Research & Engineering and then joined the chemistry faculty at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, now the University of the Sciences. While there he organized the Sigma Xi chapter and the American Association of University Professors chapter.

John served the Philadelphia Section as chair of committees on education, bylaws, chemical health and safety, planning, program, and awards. He held the offices of Section Chair, Treasurer, Director, and Councilor. He was a co-founder of the Chromatography Forum of Delaware Valley and organized the ACS subdivision of chromatography and separations chemistry in the division of analytical chemistry. He edited its newsletter for nine years and served as Secretary, Chair, and member of the Executive Committee.

Nikelly served six years on the ACS council committee on divisional activities and six years on the council committee on economic and professional affairs. He was also a science advisor to the US Food and Drug Administration and a Greek language interpreter for the US State Department.

Sidney A. Howarth, Jr., retired chemist, March 27th at 87. He worked for DuPont and Struthers & Dunn.

COUNCILORS AT THE APRIL NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO



From l. to r.: Judith Currano, Deb Cook, Judith Cohen, Ella Davis, ACS President Allison Campbell, Tony Addison, Georgia Arbuckle-Keil, John Tierney, Christie McInnes, Marge Matthews. For a summary of the councilors meeting, see https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/governance/councilors/councilor-talking-points-and-summary-of%20governance-actions-san-francisco-2017.pdf?_ga=1.146208948.1430791527.1475507041

MAY MEETING

Excellence in Teaching Awards
Speaker: Sam Kean, Science Writer
<http://samkean.com/>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/philadelphia-section-ac-s-may-event-tickets-32651881657>

Thursday, May 18, 2017

The Disappearing Spoon

McNeil Science and Technology Center
University of the Sciences
Woodland Ave. & 43rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143

5:15 PM-6:00 PM Registrations/Reception
6:00-7:30 PM Lecture and Awards
7:30-9:30 Dinner

Cost is \$45 for members, \$23 for students

Register by contacting the Section Office
PhilaACS@gmail.com
(215)-382-1589

Board of Directors Meeting
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, RM STC137

SPEAKER'S ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Sam Kean
Science Writer

The Disappearing Spoon

Abstract: Why did Gandhi hate iodine? Why did the Japanese kill Godzilla with missiles made of cadmium? How did radium nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why did tellurium lead to the most bizarre gold rush in history? The Periodic Table is one of our crowning scientific achievements, but it's also a treasure trove of passion, adventure, betrayal, and obsession. *The Disappearing Spoon* delves into every single element on the table and explains each one's role in science, money, mythology, war, the arts, medicine, alchemy, and other areas of human history, from the Big Bang through the end of time.

Biography: Sam Kean is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Dueling Neurosurgeons*, *The Disappearing Spoon*, and *The Violinist's Thumb*. His stories have appeared in *The Best American Nature and Science Writing*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Slate*, and his work has been featured on NPR's *Radiolab*, *All Things Considered*, and *Fresh Air*.



Chair Dr. Deborah Cook and UPenn Professor Dr. Joseph Subotnik with Edgar Fahs Smith lecturer (center) Dr. Peter J. Rossky.

THE ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION
and
THE ACS PRINCETON SECTION
Present

NON-TRADITIONAL CAREERS: A PANEL DISCUSSION AND NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, May 11, 2017
5:30 PM – 10:00 PM
Bowen Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Mr. J.P. Northrop (Edward Jones Investments)
Dr. Kevin Cannon (Penn State Abington)
Dr. Mukund Chorghade (THINQ Pharma)
Dr. Molly Hoke (Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals)
Dr. Paul Winslow (Students 2 Science)

MODERATOR: Joe Martino (ACS Career Consultant and Presenter)

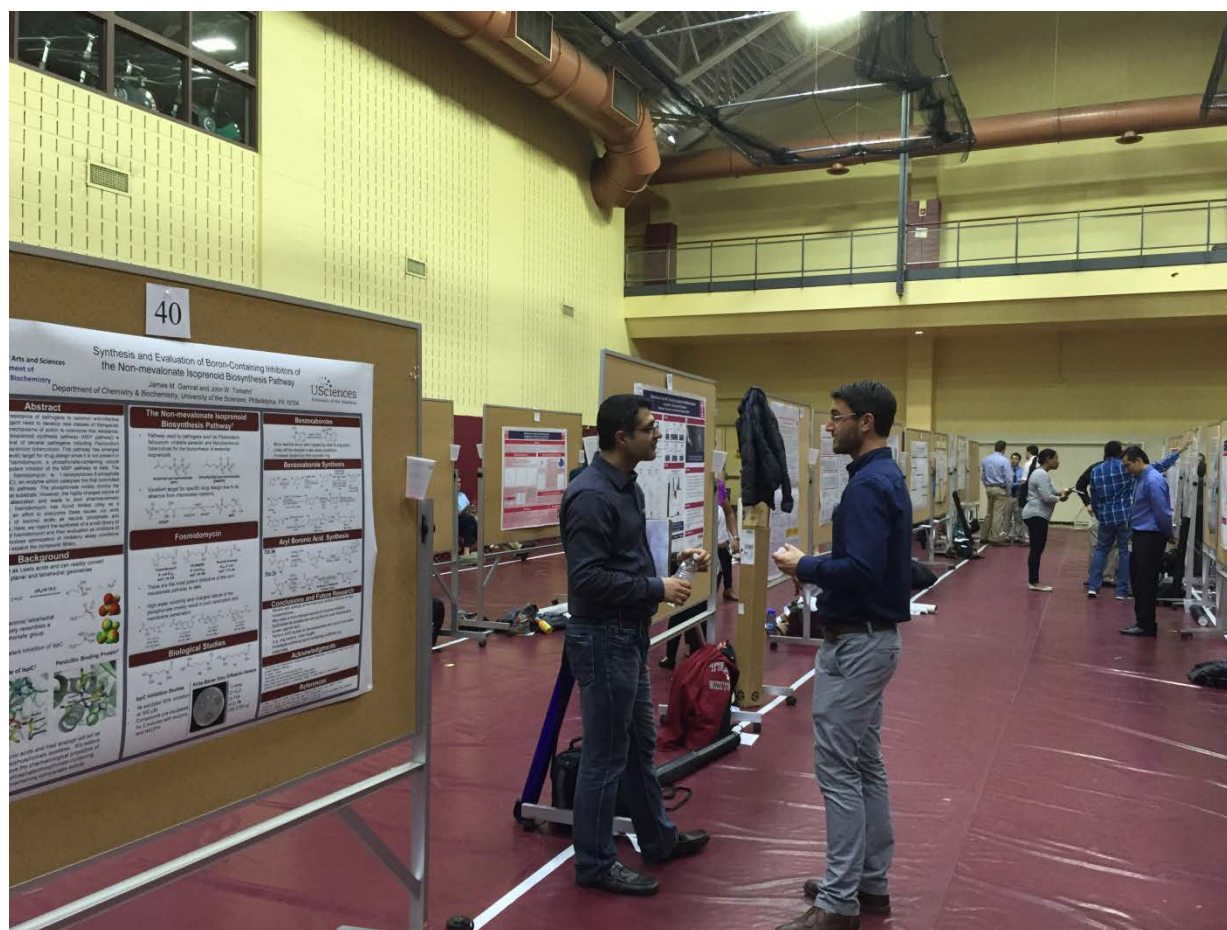
COST: \$25.00 (Includes dinner and Q&A session)

Free if attending only the panel discussion, but must register

To register, please visit <https://acsprincetonphillycareerdiscussion.eventbrite.com>

Are you considering stepping away from a traditional chemistry environment and moving toward an exciting career outside of an industrial laboratory? If this describes your situation, then please join us for this informative panel discussion as Joe Martino moderates a conversation with experienced chemists who have done exactly that. We'll explore transitioning from the industrial laboratory to roles which support the industrial enterprise, academia, non-profits, and even transitioning away from chemistry. Ample opportunity for networking will be provided along with an enjoyable dinner. Please join us!

Bowen Hall is on the campus of Princeton University near the corner of Prospect Avenue and Olden Street. It is readily accessible from US 1, US 206, NJ 27, I 95 and I 295. Free parking is available beginning at 5:00 PM in the North Garage which is right next to Bowen Hall.



The Younger Chemist Committee held its annual poster session on March 27th with over 75 posters, 7 schools and companies exhibiting at the career and grad school fair, which had over 150 attendees.

CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MAY 10, 2017 MEETING

INTRODUCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF DELAWARE (STRIDE)

Dr. Seetha Coleman-Kammula – STRIDE

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 10th, at The Cynwyd Club, Bala Cynwyd, PA

Networking, 5:30 PM; Dinner, 6:30 PM; Talk and Business Session, 7:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

Abstract: STRIDE is a registered not for profit company with a mission to retain the scientists who lost their jobs in the Delaware Valley and rebuild the science community and enable them to do what they know best to do, i.e., scientific work. Since its inception in May 2016, STRIDE has been working on funds to provide a laboratory facility and associated organizational structure that will enable its members (i) to undertake contract and collaborative research and consulting work to earn some income in the short term (ii) to start their own businesses in the laboratory and (iii) to organize education outreach to grow the number of STEM students in colleges and schools thereby contributing to the region's economic development. The presentation will present some highlights on progress to date and opportunities to partner with other organizations in the region who share STRIDE's mission.

Biography: Dr. Seetha Coleman-Kammula, is the President of STRIDE. She was formerly a Senior Vice President at Basell, a Shell BASF joint venture and held multiple positions within Shell including business development manager and head of the specialty epoxy resins business unit. In 2005, she founded the consulting firm Simply Sustain. She served on the on the Board of Directors of Indelpro, the Sustainability External Advisory Council of Dow Chemical and the board of Delaware Sustainable Chemistry Alliance. She mentors chemistry start-ups and supports several non-profits.

Location: The Cynwyd Club, 332 Trevor Lane, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. [MAP DIRECTIONS](#)

Reservation: [Click here to register to attend the event](#), or e-mail CCNReservations@aol.com or call the CCN phone number at (877) 326-2959 and leave a message. Fee, including food and beverages (wine, beer & sodas), is \$30 by reservation/cancellation deadline: **Saturday, May 6th**. Dietary restrictions accommodated on a limited basis. There is no charge for talk only, but registration is suggested using contact information above.

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687th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 23, 2017
Philadelphia Distilling Company, Philadelphia, PA

Present: Michael Castaldi, David Cichowicz, Melissa Cichowicz, Deborah Cook, Jason Cross, Ella Davis, Anne DeMasi, Alan Heldon, Kathy Lysko, Joseph A. Martino, Christie McInnis, Craig McClure, Cynthia Palmer, Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw, Elizabeth Wagoner
Excused: Rick Ewing

Also present: CJ Bruner, Steve Fleming, Judith Currano, Bill Smith

The 687th Board Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ACS, was called to order at 4:02 PM. A quorum was present.

The Minutes of the December 2016 Board of Directors Meetings were approved with 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

The Minutes of the January 2017 Board of Directors Meetings were approved with 1 nay and 1 abstentions.

1. Officers

A. Chair, Deborah H. Cook, deborahcook72@gmail.com

1) Communications Committee phone meeting - Six members were able to call in to a telephone meeting of the committee.

Discussion of Communications Committee needs including finding a volunteer to replace Chair Marge Matthews who announced a desire to step down two years ago, and the e-media needs of the Section and the challenges presented.

There was a consensus that there was a need for a Communications Committee meeting prior to the March Board Meeting.

2) Judith Currano advised that the project to digitally archive *the Catalyst*, at U. Penn Chem. Library, has encountered problems but is expected to be back on track by summer.

3) Meetings and Programs updates:

a) March 23 Meeting, U. Penn EFS Lecture April 20 Meeting, Student Scholastic Achievement Awards, Presenter: Mary Virginia Orna, at McCalls Conference Ctr;

b) May 18 Meeting, venue change to University of the Sciences, Speaker: Sam Kean;

c) June Meeting, 50 year members program, venue open, Speaker: Tom Connelly;

d) September 28 Meeting, Pennsylvania Biotechnology Institute, Doylestown

4) The Chair brought Abigail Crawford's Travel Grant Application to the Board's attention for review and disposition. Abigail Crawford, a junior chemistry major at Eastern University, has submitted an application for funding to travel to the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco in April. The applicant has had two abstracts accepted for presentation at the National Meeting and seeks funding to travel to San Francisco to present her posters. The application is for \$500.00. After discussion, including review of total program funding and third and fourth quarter needs there was a motion and second for a grant in the amount of \$300.00. Motion passed with no nays or abstentions.

B. Chair-Elect, Elizabeth Wagoner, ewagoner22@gmail.com

The Chair-Elect attended the ACS's leadership training institute. A lot of the training was oriented to the use of e-media. ACS National believes that e-media will provide a voice for local sections and there was discussion of the utility of various e-media vehicles for local section members use.

Discussion of formulating a Section Strategic Plan which contemplates section objectives, commitments and resources.

Awards Committee: Receiving nominations.

C. Secretary, Alan Heldon, alan.heldon@live.com

No report.

D. Treasurer, David Cichowicz, cichowic@lasalle.edu

Work proceeding on year-end report to National.

Restructuring Section Budget protocols to better accord with ACS National Budget usage and practice.

Brief discussion of annual report.

E. Past-Chair, Rick Ewing, ewingwre@comcast.net

No report; excused absence.

2. Committees

A. Career Services, Joe Martino, acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com

1) The January 19th monthly Section meeting with ChemPharma featuring Allen Reitz was well-received with approximately 50 participants. Career Services thanks Deb Cook and Michael Chiappinelli and Bert Marchio of ChemPharma for their efforts in this event as well as Allen Reitz for his willingness to speak at the event. ChemPharma has indicated a desire to hold future events with the Section. Deb Cook is working with Allen Reitz to hold our September monthly meeting at the PA Biotechnology Center in Doylestown, PA

2) The multi-section career event with the ACS Princeton Section will take place on Thursday, May 11th from 5:30 PM to 10:00PM at Bowen Hall on the campus of Princeton University. The format will include a moderated panel discussion and question and answer session with a dinner provided. A \$25 charge for the event will be to subsidize food. More details on the panelists will be forthcoming, and the panel will have representation from the membership of the ACS Philadelphia Section. Career Services is partially subsidizing this event from the Career Services' budget, and the ACS Princeton and Philadelphia Sections have applied for an ACS Corporation Associates Local Section Grant to further fund the event.

3) The Career Club will take place after the May 2017 event. Arrangements will be made at the Community Center of the Giant Super Food Store in Willow Grove, PA as to date and time.

4) Career Services is providing support for resumé reviews for the Philly YCC Poster Session on March 27 at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA.

B. Education and Outreach Committee, Bill Smith, willsmith2@aol.com

The Education and Outreach Committee wishes to give a special thanks to Section Administrator Krista Leary for finishing the committee's project of developing a robust list of high school contacts in our area and for agreeing to maintain and updating the list.

Summary of Education and Outreach Committee Report

Event and Task	Status
ACS Scholars	No Report
CHEMAGINATION	The poster competition will be at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA on June 4 Preparing Section Level Contest to begin in April
Chemists Celebrate Earth Day K-12 Poster Contest	"Chemistry Helps Feed the World." Section contest the week of April 22 nd Supplied National with new coordinator for Section Awaiting supplies
Herb Bassow Memorial Chemistry Demonstrations	No Report
High School Certificates	Certificates signed by Section Chair went out with revised cover letter signed by E&O Committee Chair
Kids and Chemistry	No Report
National Chemistry Olympiad	Craig McClure and Laura Grande project coordinators Received requests for over 640 exams, from 28 schools and four individual students High school level exams in mid-March Section level exam at LaSalle University on April 22 nd

National Chemistry Week K-12 Poster Contest

No Report

Philadelphia Science Carnival

Penn's Landing, Saturday, April 29, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Preparations under way for Section booth (shaving cream chemistry)

Project SEED

One current venue – Solvay in Bristol
Two students being interviewed for summer 2017
Working with National to expand the number of venues

Scholastic Achievement Awards

Letters signed by E&O Committee Chair sent to Department Chairs
Responses due no later than March 15th

3. Other Business

A. Alan Heldon, Government Affairs Committee Chair, alan.heldon@live.com

A March for Science, publicized on the internet and other sources, is scheduled for Earth Day, April 22nd. Events are scheduled for Washington, Philadelphia and many other "local" venues. The events are well publicized.

ACS National, as yet, has no position, in support or otherwise of this event. Local Sections may not take a position at this time. Members are free to participate but may not speak on behalf of the ACS. The Board decided that Section resources would not be expended until National has a position.

B. PAGESTM, Kathy Shaginaw reported that many PAGESTM volunteers report that they will be participating in the April 22nd Science March. PAGESTM volunteers needed.

C. Younger Chemists Committee Poster Session
Posters needed.

D. Section Councilors, Anne DeMasi reported that, at this time, all Councilors are going to the National Meeting in San Francisco

There being no additional business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Heldon, Secretary, alan.heldon@live.com

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

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There are two important ways to recruit through our services. One is to place a print ad in the Catalyst. The other is to place a web site ad reaching out to 40,000 ACS members. We recommend using both low cost methods.

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Being a part of one of our teams can help you develop organizational and meeting skills as well as help you to network with people from the largest area companies. Public Relations, such as sending out meeting notices and press releases, can help you to develop a network and help you get noticed!

All committees are looking for new members and several are looking for "take charge" chairs. Some, like the Teller's Committee, involve minimal work—one night per year and pizza provided. Others, like positions on Communications or Social Committees, involve one or two hours per month.

Committee details can be found at:

www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia

or by calling the Philadelphia Section Office (215) 382-1589.



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**PHILADELPHIA SECTION, ACS
CURRENT CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday, May 6 1:30-5:00 PM	Symposium honoring Madeleine Joullie, Agenda: https://www.chem.upenn.edu/event/2017/05/symposium-honoring-madeleine-joullie	University of Pennsylvania Room 102, Chemistry Building 231 S. 34 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323 registration: https://www.chem.upenn.edu/symposium
Monday, May 8 5:00-9:00 PM	Delaware Valley Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group: Vendors Meeting, <i>Towards a "Molecular Microscope"</i> Speaker: Brian T. Chait, The Rockefeller University	The Radnor Hotel, 591 E. Lancaster Avenue St. Davids, PA 19087 Please RSVP to Kevin Owens (kevin.owens@drexel.edu) by Tue 5/2/17 at 5 PM for a dinner headcount. Additional information (including directions) is available at www.dvmsdg.org
Wednesday, May 10 5:30-9:00 PM	Chemists Consultant Network, <i>Introducing Science, Technology and Research Institute of Delaware</i> Dr. Seetha Coleman-Kammula (STRIDE)	The Cynwyd Club 332 Trevor Lane Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 http://www.chemconsultants.org/event-2508564
Thursday, May 11 5:30-10:00 PM	Non-Traditional Careers: A Panel Discussion and Networking Event	Bowen Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ https://acsprincetonphillycareerdiscussion.eventbrite.com
Thursday, May 18 6:00-10:00 PM	Philadelphia ACS Section Event; Speaker: Sam Kean, Science Writer: <i>The Disappearing Spoon</i>; and Excellence in Teaching Awards	McNeil Science and Technology Center University of the Sciences Philadelphia, PA
Thursday, May 25 6:00-8:00 PM	<i>My Data, My Self: A Century of Self-Tracking Health Technologies</i>	Chemical Heritage Foundation 315 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 https://www.chemheritage.org/event/my-data-my-self-a-century-of-self-tracking-health-technologies
Thursday, May 25 8:00 PM	The Teva Lecture at Philadelphia Organic Chemists' Club; Speaker: Dr. Sean P. Brown, Amgen: <i>Interdiction at a Protein-Protein Interface: Structure-Based Design of Mcl-1 Inhibitors</i>	University of Pennsylvania Department of Chemistry, Carolyn Hoff Lynch Hall Philadelphia, PA http://www.pocclub.org/
June 4-June 6	2017 Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM 2017): <i>Elements of Transition</i> . Co-organized by the Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna Sections of the ACS	Hershey, Pennsylvania http://marm2017.sites.acs.org/
Thursday, June 22	Luncheon Honoring 50-, 60- and 70-Year Members	The Union League 140 S. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102
Friday, July 7	Chemical Heritage Foundation First Friday: <i>How Beer Fueled Civilization</i>	Chemical Heritage Foundation 315 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 https://www.chemheritage.org/event/first-friday-how-beer-fueled-civilization
August 20-24	254 th American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition: <i>Chemistry's Impact on the Global Economy</i>	Washington, DC https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings.html?cid=home-meetings

Thursday September 28 5:00-8:00 PM	Philadelphia ACS Section Event: Tour of the PA Biotechnology Cen- ter	Pennsylvania Drug Discovery Institute At the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Institute 3805 Old Easton Rd Doylestown, PA 18902
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