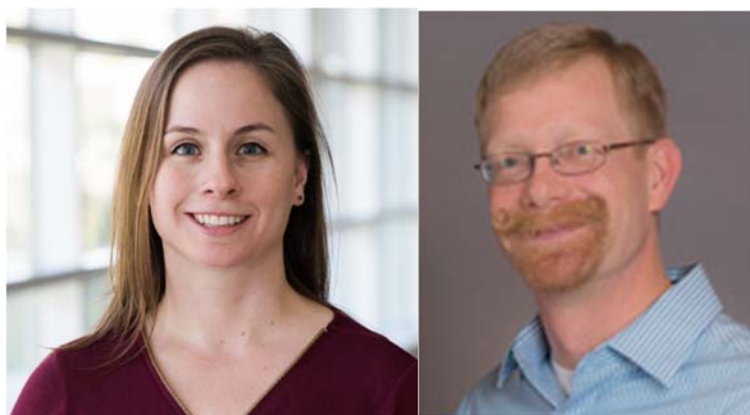


# the Catalyst



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April 2021  
Volume 106, No. 4



**Education & Outreach Volunteers**  
**Laura Grande and Craig McClure**

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## ADVANCE NOTICE





**VIRTUAL DELAWARE VALLEY  
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**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**  
6:00 – 7:30 PM

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## **Comments From the Chair**



While there was no formal Section meeting in March due to the postponement of the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture until November, our Program Planning Committee has been hard at work. They have been working to find the balance of in-person and virtual events. Be on the lookout for our Research Seminar

Series on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and our Teaching and Scholastic Achievement Awards on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and our Multi-society networking event on May 11.

Often our Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee is hard at work behind the scenes paving the way for our Section in outreach to the community. For that reason, I would like to profile two volunteers from E&O. Special thanks to Tom Umile, the chair of E&O, for his pulling together this profile. Of course, thanks to our outstanding volunteers—Laura and Craig!

### **The US National Chemistry Olympiad: A Conversation with Education & Outreach Volunteers Laura Grande (LG) and Craig McClure (CM)**

Each year, high school students nationwide participate in the US National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO), a multi-part competition that celebrates outstanding chemistry students and ultimately selects the team who will represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad. This year's local examinations were administered on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Top students will be invited to take the three-part National Exam, which includes both written and lab practical components.

Local and national USNCO examinations for the Philadelphia Local Section are coordinated by Education & Outreach Committee members Laura Grande and Craig McClure. Laura is an Assistant Professor in the La Salle University Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Science and Craig is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Drexel University Department of Chemistry. They recently responded to some questions about their experiences with USNCO and their time volunteering with the Education & Outreach Committee.

### **How long have you been involved with the Education & Outreach Committee and running the National Chemistry Olympiad testing? How and why did you first get involved with E&O and this project?**

CM: I have been involved in the program for five years now, since Laura and I started on this in 2016. That was my first involvement in the E&O Committee. I had previously co-coordinated the USNCO in the Alabama Section for several years before moving to the Philadelphia section. Since I had enjoyed my participation in this program previously, I decided to keep working on it when the opportunity arose here.

LG: Thomas Straub of La Salle University ran the Philadelphia Local Section of the USNCO for years. When he retired, he asked if I would continue the project. Craig and I decided to tackle the project together.

**What do you enjoy most about running the National Chemistry Olympiad local testing? Do you have a favorite memory or experience?**

LG: I personally enjoy the day of the event, especially the lab practical portion of the exam. Listening to the different ideas that the students come up with and how quickly some of those students are able to solve the problems provided is fascinating to me.

CM: It is a lot of work. I think what I enjoy the most is interacting with the students on the day of the National Examination and seeing them getting to know each other. I also enjoy working with Laura, she is a great co-coordinator, and we work very well together.

**How has your involvement with the Philly ACS E&O Committee impacted you personally or professionally?**

CM: It has been enjoyable. When we are setting up the laboratory practical portion of the National Exam, it has led me to think about the laboratory activity and possible lab activities in my courses.

LG: I believe my participation in the Olympiad has increased my effectiveness as a teacher. I am always trying to incorporate new and interesting active learning techniques to engage my students in the classroom. I have used ideas from some of the lab practical problems to create guided inquiry lab experiments for my students to use.

**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the program or your involvement?**

LG: This program requires so many important components. The high school teachers who encourage their students to participate should be commended. Both Drexel and La Salle University have donated resources that we use to run the program. Finally, the Philadelphia Local Section of the ACS provides the funding for this to be possible.

CM: I'll echo what Laura said here. We are grateful for the area high school teachers who work to offer this opportunity to their students. Also, the Philadelphia Section administrators have been great to work with, as they do the initial mailings, and have been very responsive to our requests. We couldn't do it without them (Anna Boffice, and previously Lautrelle Smith-Gary). The La Salle University Chemistry Department has hosted the National Exam for many years now prior to our involvement, and we are appreciative for their support and having that location. Drexel Department of Chemistry has also supported this program.

*For more information on volunteer opportunities in the Philadelphia Local Section Education & Outreach Committee, contact Committee Chair Tom Umile ([thomas.umile@villanova.edu](mailto:thomas.umile@villanova.edu)).*

## NEWS ATOMS—Alan Warren

**Kathleen Stebe**, professor in the department of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Penn, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

### DEATHS

**Trevor Selwood**, enzymologist and protein biochemist, October 28, 2020 at 59. Born in England he was a senior research officer at the University of Essex where he obtained his doctorate. From 1993 to 2005 he was a senior research investigator at the University of Pennsylvania where he worked on the structural and mechanistic characterization of serine proteases.

Selwood joined Fox Chase Cancer Center in 2005 as a research associate and then was employed as a scientist from 2012 to 2015 at RMH Sciences. From 2015 until 2020 he was a research specialist at Kohli Lab. He authored over 30 technical publications.

**Sydney A. Giddings**, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 91, a 60-year member of ACS. No further details available.

**Rev. Richard T. Reece**, chemistry teacher, February 27, 2021 at 85. Following ordination, Father Reece taught chemistry at Northeast Catholic High School and served as dean of studies and assistant principal for curriculum. In 1977 he moved to Alexandria, VA, where he taught chemistry at Bishop Ireton high school and served as assistant principal for finance and vice principal for studies. From 1983 to 1996 he was provincial superior of the Wilmington-Philadelphia province. Father Reece then moved to the Oblate Community in Wyndmoor where he served as associate mission procurator

### ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS

*Would you like to speak to a local ACS Career Consultant? The Philadelphia Section career consultants can provide one-on-one career advice, résumé reviews, or mock interviews. Please send an email request to [acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com](mailto:acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.*





**PHILADELPHIA ACS  
LOCAL SECTION**

**SPRING  
RESEARCH  
SHOWCASE**

**APRIL 21, 2021  
6:30 - 8:00 PM**

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## 726<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**CODE OF CONDUCT** As members of the Philadelphia Section of the ACS, we shall abide by the Chemists' Code of Conduct which states in part that "Chemical professionals should seek to advance chemical science while striving for the highest standards of scientific integrity. Chemical professionals should treat others with respect and will not engage in discrimination, harassment, bullying, dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, coercive manipulation, censorship, or other misconduct. Such actions apply to all professional, research, and learning environments."

January 7, 2021 Via Teleconference

### Officers Reports:

1) Chair – Christie McInnis

Slide Show Presentation:

Please add meetings to section calendar

New Volunteer Event Intake Form to be used for all events going forward

Website Bios – Christie is requesting everyone to send a bio so that it can be put on the webpage.

2) Immediate Past Chair – Joe Martino

Services as acting chair of the career services committee chair has ended. Jim is now resuming responsibilities of chair

Forms: ACS Community Connection is a whole new system. It is providing zoom trainings every Friday at 9:00 AM until February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The report is still due on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We need to make sure we get all our information.

The election slate has been working on by Jim and Joe. Once this election slate is done Joe will send to Christie a transfer of information.

3) Chair Elect – Ivona Sasimovich : Will be attending training in the next two weeks for her position in ACS.

4) Secretary Report – Alan Heldon – Nothing to report.

5) Treasurer – Wei Wang (Dave Cichowicz will give report) – The 2020 report was sent and circulated. Treasurer's report and investments were sent to the board. Dave also made a comment regarding the late reimbursement requests. Received \$2,000 from national. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made.

6) Chair of Councilors Affairs – Anne DeMasi

Anne was on a meeting with National today. They are trying to move the governance meetings separate from the technical meetings. Additionally, there is a special election for counselors to vote on, but no details have been provided. Anne will take the training so that she can work on the national report.

7) Career Services Chair – Jim Murray Earlier this week Joe and Jim met with Temple Science of Technology to further the relationship that they have. The career services committee has disseminated the information how they can work with Temple and their people. Rose would like us to hold a half hour event to graduates to help guide them in the career services projects.

### Committee Reports:

#### Budget & Finance – Vic Tortorelli

Vic Tortorelli presented the budget that was passed last meeting. There is only one difference between the exact carry over amount. We are carrying over \$31,344.18.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### 2021 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION AWARD

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members as well as Regional and Topical Groups to nominate candidates for the 2021 ACS Philadelphia Section Award.

This Award shall be presented “to one member of the Section, or in exceptional circumstances to two members of the Section jointly, who by conspicuous scientific achievement has made important contributions to the field of chemistry and thereby aided the public appreciate of the profession.” (ACS Philadelphia Section Bylaw X, §1.) Any member of the ACS Philadelphia Section may be nominated. Recent awardees include Dr. Donna M. Huryn (University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Anthony W. Addison (Drexel University), Dr. Marsha I. Lester (University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Michelle Franci (Bryn Mawr College) and Dr. Yuri Gogotsi (Drexel University).

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATION

Nominators should provide a CV of the nominee showing education; employment and/or academic history; a list of publications, presentations and patents; and a record of other accomplishments pertinent to consideration for this award.

One or two seconding letters (at least one of which should be from a person in an organization other than that of the nominee) should be requested in support of the nomination.

Nominators and seconders should be identified with addresses, e-mail and telephone numbers so that they can be contacted, if necessary, for additional information.

Unsuccessful nominees from previous years may be renominated. In fairness to the nominee, however, renominations must be accompanied by an updating of the nominee’s biographical data and a list of accomplishments in order to make the nomination competitive. Unsuccessful nominees who have been considered three years in a row should not be renominated for the fourth year in succession without prior consultation by the nominator with the Chair of the Awards Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Section Office at:

ACS Philadelphia Local Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
(267) 485-1792; e-mail [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

The completed packet of nomination materials may be e-mailed to [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com) or mailed by **August 13, 2021** to the Chair of the Awards Committee at the Section Office address above.



## Chemical Consultants Network ZOOM MEETING APRIL 14, 2021

### EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS?

Dr. Ron Bihovsky – Key Synthesis, LLC  
David Vahlsing – Becht Engineer

### EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS? “PROBLEMS OCCUR AT INTERFACES”

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM

[Click here to register](#)

**Location:** Online via Zoom! (registration required, see below)

**Abstract:** Often, scientists must work effectively with people from other technical disciplines in order to deliver what clients need. For example, chemists and chemical engineers need to work together to advance successful manufacturing processes from the lab to the plant. However, chemists and chemical engineers often have different concerns, think in different ways, speak different “languages,” and have different definitions of a good process and project success. Project success is often tied to how well we collaborate.

In this meeting we will discuss the challenges we have seen when people from different technical disciplines collaborate and share how we overcame these issues. This meeting will be interactive as we explore how best to increase collaboration, synergy, and communication between scientists and engineers.

**Biography:** Dr. Ron Bihovsky is a medicinal and organic chemistry consultant and founder of Key Synthesis LLC, a custom synthesis company specializing in synthesis of biologically active compounds. He also performs experimental work and testifies as an expert witness. He previously worked as an organic and medicinal chemist in the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

David Vahlsing worked at Sunoco, Inc in the USA and Canada, at various refineries, Central Engineering, R&D and corporate headquarters for a career that began directly after graduation from MIT with a BS in Chemical Engineering. Upon early retirement from Sun, he formed Hydrocarbon Engineering Associates (HEA), a multi-skilled engineering company that serviced many oil refining and chemicals companies. HEA was purchased by Becht Engineering ([www.becht.com](http://www.becht.com)) and he now manages their Philadelphia office. Dave also was co-founder of the Chemical Consultants Network.

[Click here to register to attend the event.](#) This session is **FREE**.

## 729<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM, by teleconference

Access Information:

**By Internet:**

Website: <https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/j/87338823608?pwd=L2hGcE14QUtHVzNhMnhSbzJjbFJQUT09>

Meeting Number: 873 3882 3608

Password: 460722

**By Phone:**

Phone Number: +1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 873 3882 3608

Password: 460722



**ACS** Local Section  
Philadelphia

### May Section Meeting

#### 2021 ACS Philadelphia Section Awards for Excellence in Pre-College and Undergraduate Teaching 2021 Student Scholastic Achievement Awards

Presenter: Ms. Ivona Sasimovich, Chair-Elect Philadelphia Local ACS Section

Please join us in a virtual award ceremony to celebrate the recipients of 2021 ACS Philadelphia Section Awards for Excellence in Pre-College and Undergraduate Teaching in the chemical sciences. We will also be honoring our Scholastic Achievement Award Winners during this meeting.

Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Virtual Awards Ceremony  
7:00 PM—8 :00 PM

Register at:

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/j/88589746827?pwd=UnBKUmVWRUNRdldEekdXazBhN1dhdz09>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

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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](http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia)

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

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