

the Catalyst



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**Award For Excellence in Pre-College and Undergraduate
Teaching in Chemical Sciences
&
Student Scholastic Achievement Awards
at
Grey Towers Castle
Arcadia University**

the Catalyst

ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

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Robin S. Davis

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News Atoms: Alan Warren

Proof Editors: Anthony Addison
Georgia Arbuckle-Keil
Kendra Luther
Corrie Kuniyoshi
Marge Matthews
Alan Warren

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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments From the Chair

Graham Dobereiner



This month, Dr. Squire J. Booker gave the 2023 Edgar Fahs Smith lecture at the University of Pennsylvania. In his lecture, Dr. Booker spoke of his group's recent discovery of an astonishing C-C bond forming reaction promoted by a radical S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) archaean enzyme. His outstanding scholarship and interdisciplinary approach made Dr. Booker a perfect choice for this year's Edgar Fahs Smith lecture. Thanks to the UPenn Dept. of Chemistry for both hosting and broadcasting this event, and to Chair-elect Matt

Irwin for his help planning it.

I want to highlight that Dr. Booker's lecture was attended both in-person and virtually. Part of the Section's Strategic Plan is focused on making our events more accessible and inclusive to all. In the spirit of this effort, we aim to make all presentations and lectures available virtually to Section members. If you are interested in getting involved in working to make our Section more accessible and inclusive, please let me know: PhilaACS@gmail.com.

The April presentation of our Scholastic Achievement Awards and Awards for Excellence in Pre-College Teaching and Undergraduate Teaching are now just days away. We are excited to congratulate our winners at Arcadia on April 20th. If you would like to attend, details can be found later in this issue of *the Catalyst*.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Section.

NEWS ATOMS—Alan Warren

One of the ACS's Women Chemists Committee's 2023 Rising Star awardees is **Louise Charkoudian**, associate professor of chemistry at Haverford College.

DEATHS

H. Jay Surrena, Jr., retired chemical engineer, February 24, 2023 at 87. After a 40-year career with Sun Oil he retired as vice president of Crude Oil Acquisitions for Sun International, Ltd.

Note: News Atoms seeks to report new hires, significant promotions, honors and awards, and those who have recently passed away from the field of chemistry in the greater Philadelphia area. If you have a news item for this column, send it by email to PhilaACS@gmail.com or by mail to the Philadelphia Section.



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

2023 ACS Philadelphia Section

Award For Excellence in Pre-College Teaching in Chemical Sciences,
Award For Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Chemical Sciences,
&
Student Scholastic Achievement Awards

Awards Ceremony

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 7:00 PM

at

Grey Towers Castle
Arcadia University
450 S. Easton Rd.
Glenside, PA 19038

Please join us in an award ceremony to celebrate the recipients of 2023 ACS Philadelphia Section Awards for Excellence in Pre-College and Undergraduate teaching in the chemical sciences. In addition, we will be honoring the best and the brightest graduating students for their Scholastic Achievements in chemical sciences.

All attendees need to register by going to <https://pacs-tssaa2023.eventbrite.com>. The price of admission is \$25 per person.

The program and details about parking will be emailed a week prior to the event.

Register online:



<https://pacs-tssaa2023.eventbrite.com>



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

749th ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Call for Agenda

The 749th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the ACS Philadelphia Section will be held from **7:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, April 13th, 2023** by teleconference.

- Those interested in being added to the agenda are kindly asked to send a request to the Chair (dob@temple.edu) by **Wednesday, April 12th, 2023** for inclusion in the agenda.
- All Officers will be included on the agenda to verbally report by default.
- **Please Note:** If a written report or notice of a verbal report is not submitted to the Chair by the specified deadline, then all such reports will be relegated for discussion as "Other Business." Please note that the Chair cannot guarantee sufficient time for discussion in these cases.
- **All Board of Directors meetings will be open to the public.** Public access information for this teleconference will be released through the Section's website and by the Section's email blast.

Tentative Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Other Business

For those participating by teleconference: All Officers and Directors should have received a Google Calendar invitation with a Zoom Link. For those who have not received this information as well as for your convenience, please use the following information to access the teleconference:

By Internet: register by following this link:

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/meeting/register/tZEKce6urTgqGdwsNIaLSUOwH5YoR2ovE8JI>

Zoom Meeting ID: 859 6763 3038

By Phone:

Phone Number: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Access Code: 859 6763 3038

Graham Dobereiner
Chair
dob@temple.edu

Sister Rose B. Mulligan
Secretary
rmulligan@immaculata.edu

Section Office
PhilaACS@gmail.com

Cc: Officers & Directors
Councilors & Alternate Councilors
Committee & Group Chairs

American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section
231 South 34th Street, Office – 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323
phillyacs.org



2023 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae

The Philadelphia Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is hosting an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Entries must be sponsored by a local school or community group for verification purposes.

Contest Deadline: Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM Eastern

Local Prizes: \$50 for the winning poem in each category: (grades K–2, 3–5, 6–8, & 9–12)

Local Contact: Tom Umile (phillyacs.education@gmail.com)

Submission: Submit a scanned PDF of your entry at <https://forms.gle/ZuqyDVvwfHw1rRGH7>

Winners of the Philadelphia Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCEW theme, “**The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae.**”
Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE

Possible topics related to the theme include:

- Seaweed
- Micro- or macro- algae
- Photosynthesis
- Bioluminescent algae
- Algae as food & habitat for animals
- Consumer products from algae
- Oxygen from algae
- Biofuels from algae

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, inspiring about yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

Contest rules:

- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the CCEW theme, word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Poems may be submitted by hand on an unlined sheet of paper not larger than 11" by 14" or scanned and sent via email. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and drawing app on a computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- The text of the poem should be easy-to-read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted; all entries must include an entry form.
- If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form.
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' first name and last initial, along with the name of the ACS Local Section, on the ACS web pages and in the magazine, Chemical & Engineering News





ACS Local Section
Philadelphia



2023 CHEMAGINATION COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

DESCRIPTION AND RULES

High school students are asked to imagine that they are living 25 years in the future and have been invited to write an article for ChemMatters, a magazine for high school students that focuses on the role of chemistry in everyday life. The subject of the article is: *"Describe a recent breakthrough or innovation in chemistry (and/or its applications) that has improved the quality of people's lives today."* To view a sample ChemMatters magazine visit [acs.org](http://www.acs.org), and look under Education:
<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html>.

In addition to the article, students are asked to design a cover for the magazine. The article must be written as if the student is living in the year 2048, looking back at innovations that have occurred since 2023. The innovation must fall into one of the following categories:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| * Alternative Energy | * Medicine/Health |
| * Environment | * New Materials |

A few examples of areas where development is expected are: nanotechnology, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, green chemistry, sustainability, intelligent devices for sensing, proteomics, climate models, biopharmaceutical therapies, medical devices and/or implants and new energy sources.

RULES

ARTICLES must:

- be written by a team of two or three students; each student may be on only one team.
- be about 1,000 words (figure captions are not included in the limit).
- present the chemistry/scientific concepts/ideas/principles behind the innovation.
- describe the innovation and indicate how it has improved people's lives.
- present a "history" of the changes that had to occur over the "past" 25 years to develop this innovation.
- include drawings, diagrams, illustrations and descriptions of the chemistry and any technology involved in all key aspects of the innovation.
- cite a minimum of three technical references.
- include a cover design for the magazine. The cover design can be an original computer graphic or a free-hand drawing.

PRIZES: Members of the first-place team in each of the four categories will each receive \$50 from the Philadelphia Local Section of the ACS. Additionally, members from the first-place team in each of the four categories will be invited to present their article at the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society CHEMAGINATION contest to be held at St. John's University in Queens, NY on June 10, 2023.

DEADLINE: Teams must submit a completed entry form and article (including magazine cover) to phillyacs.education@gmail.com no later than **SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**. Entry forms may be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/35mR0RI>. Winning teams will be notified on or around May 10 to ensure time to prepare for the regional competition.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Younger Chemists Committee Program and Event Planning Volunteers: The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) is a committee of the Philadelphia Local Section focusing on the needs of undergraduate, graduate, postdoc, and early career chemists under 35 years old. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with program planning for the annual poster session to be held this Fall. Many hands make light work, so several volunteers are needed in this capacity! This is an excellent opportunity for students and early career chemists to assume leadership roles and network with likeminded scientists within the ACS community. The estimated time commitment would be less than 1 hour per week.

Contact Isabella Goodenough for more details at: igoodenough.acs@gmail.com

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, resume reviews, or mock interviews. Please send an email request to acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com to set up an appointment.



**PHILADELPHIA
AREA
CHEMISTRY
COMPETITION**

sunday,
April 23, 2023

*hosted by the American
Chemical Society*

at St. Joseph's University - University City
SJU - University City Campus
Athletic Recreation Center
600 South 43rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 191465

register your team today!

to register, enter...

- university name
- team name
 - teams of 3-5 students
- total # of attendees
- contact email

<https://tinyurl.com/pacc2023>



747th ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Teleconference Meeting

Present: Catherine Bentzley, Amy Brown, Michael Castaldi, David J. Cichowicz, Melissa Cichowicz, Deborah H. Cook, Judith Currano, Anne DeMasi, Graham Dobereiner, Wei Gao, Isabella Goodenough, Sharon Haynie, Matthew Irwin, Christine McInnis, Sr. Rose Mulligan, James K. Murray, Ann Rowley, David Salas-de la Cruz, Ivona Sasimovich, Kathleen Shaginaw, Victor Tortorelli, Ann Valentine, and Wei Wang

Excused: Rick Ewing, Christie McInnis

The 747th Board Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ACS, was called to order at 7:00 PM and Graham read the ACS Code of Conduct.

I. Roll Call

Roll was taken, a quorum was present, and the meeting began.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 12, 2023, 746th BoD meeting minutes were approved with amendments.

III. Officers' Reports:

a. Chair – Graham Dobereiner

- January Section Meeting
 - 20 attendees, 34 registered
 - Project SEED proposal, 10 mentors to host 14 students
 - A few panel attendees expressed an interest in participating in the future.
 - Considering a second event in Dec. 2023 to get more mentors. This gives potential mentors more time before the Feb. proposal due date.
- February Section Meeting
 - Feb. 16, 2023, Virtual Seminar, 7:00 PM
 - Prof. Stefan Kilyanek, University of Arkansas
 - Registration information has been published.
- March Section Meeting
 - 87th Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture
 - Thursday, March 16, 2023, 6:00 PM
 - University of Penn. Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall, Dept. of Chemistry, 34th and Spruce Sts. Phila.
 - Squire J. Booker, A Radical Solution for C(sp³)-C(sp³) Bond Formation during the Biosynthesis of Macrocyclic Membrane Lipids
 - Graham checked about this being live streamed. Organizers at Penn are waiting for permission for this.
 - Reminder to have a person being attentive to the live stream to make sure technology is working, and to follow the chat.
 - A dinner option will be available after this event. A ticket option will be posted on Eventbrite.
 - A brochure is created for attendees that gives historical perspective of this lecture and lists previous awardees.
 - Ivona will help with this.
 - Graham will first check to see if Penn does something in-house.
 - Ivona will call Joel to see if he can attend to take photos.
 - Graham will coordinate with Chris at Penn to sign the scroll.
 - Graham will prepare some words of welcome at the lecture. At the conclusion, he will present the speaker with the scroll and the honorarium.

b. Immediate Past Chair—Ivona Sasimovich

- Philadelphia Local Section (LS) Strategic Planning Retreat Team

- Phila LS All-Member Survey
 - Launched Dec. 21, 2022, closed Jan. 19, 2023
 - Sent to 2793 Phila LS members via email
 - 111 responses – 109 completes, 2 partials
 - Response rate 3.9% and margin of error $\pm 9\%$.
 - Pre-work completed by 15 members.
 - Generated a Philadelphia LS Strategic Plan which includes a
 - Vision
 - Mission
 - Goals & Strategies – Three goals and strategies to achieve these goals were present.
 - This was introduced to the BoD for review.
 - An opportunity map for the Philadelphia LS was developed. The hoped for impact of the goals was outlined.
 - Strategic Plan (SP) Champions were named. These members will help to implement the strategies for each of three goals with members input, investment, work.
 - Next Steps
 - Any comments, concerns, suggestions please email Ivona by March 1, 2023
 - Volunteers email Ivona anytime.
 - March 9, 2023, Board votes on the final plan.
 - Implementation begins after March 9th.
 - Quarterly meeting for SP Champions – Facilitators very pleased with goals and plan to attend the September meeting.
 - Expectation that takes about 1.5 years to get all up and running.
 - Anne, as Chair of Council Affairs will give final approval.
 - Participants very grateful to Ivona for her perseverance in organizing this. Kudos given to Ivona, Graham, Christie, and Matt for their planning and work. All felt the planning retreat was very fruitful and well organized. Grateful also to the ACS Facilitators.
 - Ivona will report at next meeting about LS ACS seal.
 - Annual report completed as much as possible. Ivona just completed gathering information from topical groups. Please send any other information of events to Ivona.
 - Ivona submitted five Chem Luminary nominations. If any have any please contact her.
- c. **Chair-Elect** - Matthew Irwin
- Planning for teaching awards. Early next week the committee will have a meeting.
 - Received a nomination for a high school awardee and full packet received. Deadline is February 15th.
 - Achievement awards being written up and pursued.
 - Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture spoken about above.
- d. **Secretary** – Sister Rose Mulligan
- No report.
- e. **Treasurer** – Wei Wang
- Sent the Treasurer's report for BoD to review.
 - The report was unanimously accepted with one abstention
 - Year-end summary comes from Edward Jones very close to the date that summary is due to ACS National. If it is too close, Wei will ask for an extension to submit the report to ACS National.
- f. **Chair of Council Affairs** – Anne DeMasi
- Councilors will be attending the Spring 2023 ACS National Meeting, Crossroads of Chemistry, Indianapolis, March 26-30.
 - One councilor virtually, one councilor alternate.
 - Feb. 15, agenda expected to be sent.
 - Feb. 23, Councilors will meet to review the agenda.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Career Services – Jim Murray

- Career Fairs – Temple College of Science and Technology, Feb. 10
- Overall, reconnecting with people who had questions about ACS Careers Services and outreach. Gathering list of questions and concerns.

V. Other Business -

a. Chem Wars – Catherine Bentzley

- April 22, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, University City Campus of St. Joseph's University
- Target audience - college students
- Received ACS Innovative Project Grant (IPG)
- For Catalyst, Deadline Feb. 15, sent to Robin Davis and Marge Matthews
- Flyer will be sent out to department chairs, and Robert, our LS administrative assistant. Will check if he can send out information.
- Isabella Goodenough will send info. to the YCC distribution list.
- Isabella will help coordinate getting chemists to speak with the students. Wei Gao will help to get some industrial chemists to interact with students.
- Jim Murray will also be present representing Career Services.
- Ivona will invite Joel, the photographer. They will request that he come for about a half hour, pre- or post-lunch to get group picture and other pictures.
- For payment, submit receipts to Wei for reimbursement. Catherine and Wei will work out specifics.
- For insurance, Catherine will follow-up with Kathy about filing the paperwork from the ACS.
- Many fun activities are planned by the students.
- For next year, the group will look at possibly inviting high school students for broader exposure to invite young people to consider going into chemistry.
- Will be part of Earth Day / Earth Week events. For next year, the group will also check with Franklin Institute to ensure there is no overlap of events.

Next meeting, Thursday, March 9, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Sister Rose B. Mulligan, IHM

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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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