

# *the Catalyst*



March 2024  
Volume 109, No. 3



**March Meeting**  
**The Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture**  
**Professor Emily Balskus**  
**Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of Chemistry**  
**Harvard University**  
Information will be sent out in a separate email

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

**APRIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**Awards Ceremony for Student Scholastic Achievement, Excellence  
in Pre-College Teaching and Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**

Awardees to be featured in an upcoming issue of *the Catalyst*

Philips Memorial Building, West Chester University, West Chester, PA

See the April issue of *the Catalyst* and our website for details,  
call the Section Office at (267) 485-1792 or email [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

# the Catalyst

ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

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**Comments  
From  
the  
Chair**



As we move forward into an exciting year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in and contributed to the success of our Lunar New Year Banquet held on February 15<sup>th</sup> at Ocean Harbor Chinatown. This event was a vibrant celebration of community and culture, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces. A special thank you goes to our chair-elect, Wei Gao, for her exemplary coordination of the event and for securing support from our financial sponsors and cohosts: Waters Corporation, Dow, the Chinese American Chromatography Association (CACA), the Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS) East Chapter, and the ACS Delaware local Section.

This month, we are honored to host the Edgar Fahs Smith lecture with the University of Pennsylvania, featuring the distinguished Prof. Emily Balskus, Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor at Harvard University's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Prof. Balskus is renowned for her groundbreaking work in chemical biology, enzymology, and microbiology. Her research has advanced our understanding of the chemical reactions in microbial metabolism and its impact on human health and disease, highlighting the vital role of chemistry in unraveling the mysteries of biological systems. The date of Prof. Balskus' lecture is being finalized and will be shared by email as soon as it is available.

I encourage all of you to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on our activities and opportunities for engagement.

Together, we are fostering a vibrant community of chemists, educators, students and enthusiasts united by a passion for the power of chemistry. Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Matthew Irwin

Chair, ACS Philadelphia Local Section

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## **NEWS ATOMS—Alan Warren**

**Ronald E. Majors** will receive the ACS Award in Chromatography at the Spring meeting in New Orleans. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of chromatography and long service to the separation science community. The award is sponsored by MilliporeSigma. Majors is a retired senior scientist with Agilent Technologies.

Also at the Spring meeting, **Donna M. Huryn** will be honored with the Francis P. Garvan – John M. Olin medal for a unique combination of leadership in medicinal chemistry, service to the chemistry community, and unwavering commitment to improve the lives of women in chemistry. Huryn is professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and adjunct professor of

pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. The endowed award fund was established by Francis P. Garvan and the Olin Corporation.

**Michelle M. Francel**, the Frank B. Mallory professor of chemistry at Bryn Mawr College, authored the recent book *Steeped: The Chemistry of Tea*, published by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Francel was elected a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2009 and was the 2019 recipient of the ACS Philadelphia Section Award.

**Roy Vagelos** and his wife Diana recently donated \$83.9 million to fund science initiatives at Penn's school of arts and sciences. Vagelos majored in chemistry before going on to receive his medical degree. He is the retired chairman and CEO of Merck & Co.

### DEATHS

**Linda G. Carter**, geochemist, May 24, 2023 at 73. She pioneered food safety in DuPont's crop protection business and led the DuPont Food Safety Initiative. She then joined Stroud Water Resource Center.

**Robert Leonetti**, retired analytical chemist, January 31, 2024 at 91. He was employed for 30 years with Smith, Kline, and French Labs. He then consulted in the pharmaceutical industry.

**James Edward Masterson**, retired chemist, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 97. He was employed by Rohm and Haas as a chemist and chemical operations manager at several locations.

### 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](mailto:acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.*



ACS Local Section  
Philadelphia

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

March 14, 2024  
Via Teleconference

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."

AGENDA

(Meeting will convene at 7:00 PM and end promptly at 8:00 PM.)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- III. Officers' Reports:
  - a. Chair – Matt Irwin
  - b. Immediate Past Chair – Graham Dobereiner
  - c. Chair-Elect – Wei Gao
  - d. Secretary – Andrew Devany
  - e. Treasurer – Wei Wang
  - f. Chair of Council Affairs – Anne DeMasi
- IV. Committee Reports
  - a. Budget & Finance – Vic Tortorelli
  - b. Career Services – Jim Murray
- 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/j/86436282837?pwd=STIwTy9paENWSlMyd2ZXQk4wSHVidz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 3628 2837

Password: 568816

**By Phone:**

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

Access Code: 864 3628 2837

Password: 568816

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## MARM 2024

The ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting, MARM 2024 will be held June 5-8, 2024, and hosted by the Central PA Local Section, at the Pennsylvania State University, Eberly College of Science, State College, PA. The meeting's theme will be "Celebrating Discovery." 2024 is the Philadelphia Local Section's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Central PA Local Section, 250 years since Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1874 first US Chemistry Congress.

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## 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, post doc, and early career chemists under 35 years old. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with program planning this year! 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.

All interested individuals can reach out to Isaac Choi at:

[yongsuk.isaac@temple.edu](mailto:yongsuk.isaac@temple.edu)

**756<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, 01-11-2024

Teleconference Meeting

**Present:** Catherine Bentzley, Amy Brown, Deborah H. Cook, Judith Currano, Ella Davis, Anne DeMasi, Graham Dobereiner, Steve Fleming, Wei Gao, Isabella Goodenough, Sharon Haynie, Matthew Irwin, James K. Murray, David Salas-de la Cruz, Ivona Sasimovich, Kathleen Shaginaw, Victor Tortorelli, Ann Valentine, Andrew Devany, Andres Vazquez Lopez, Christine McInnis

**Excused:** Melissa Cichowicz, David J. Cichowicz, Rick Ewing, Sr. Rose Mulligan, Ann Rowley, Wei Wang

The 756<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ACS, was called to order at 7:02 PM and Matthew Irwin 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 November 9, 2023, 754<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved with few amendments
  - Victor Tortorelli was listed as present, but was revised as excused
  - Jim Murray was first to make motion and Sharon Haynie seconded motion
  - December 14, 2024, 755<sup>th</sup> BoD meeting minutes were approved with no amendments

**III. Officers' Reports:**

- **Chair** – Matthew Irwin
  - Meet ACS committees and topical groups at Workhorse Brewing Company
    - The event will take place on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM in King of Prussia
    - This is an outreach networking event which will also allow committee chairs and topical groups leaders to discover what the Philly ACS has to offer. This will also provide a space to work on goals and topics to work on this year and next year
  - Lecture at Science History Institute
    - Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM Dr. Kenan Sahin is presenting on Restoring American Industrial Legend: TIAX and Arthur D. Little Company
    - Dr. Sahin will tell the story of how this led to the innovation of a technology consulting firm that became influential in chemistry, chemical engineering, and at MIT
- **Immediate Past Chair**—Graham Dobereiner
  - Sections 2023 Annual Report
    - Will reach out to members for completion which is due in one month
    - Must have required material for annual report by certain date next week
    - Chem Wars was nominated for Chem Luminary
    - It was suggested to have Project Seed nominations for most improved student
  - 2024 Seed Program is hosting 15 to 20 students
  - Amending past motion as confusion arose from November to identify funds. It was amended that organizers receive \$5,200 instead of \$3,200
- **Chair-Elect** – Wei Gao



- Lunar new year banquet - 2024 Year of the Dragon taking place on Thursday, February 15th from 6-9 PM
  - Cost to attend event are \$60 per professional and \$30 per student
  - This is a networking event with local chemists from ACS Philly, e-CACs, CACA, ACP Joint event and local students.
    - It is better to accept payments through other sources such as Venmo, Paypal, or cash
    - e-CAC = Eastern Chapter of Chinese American Society
    - CACA = Chinese American Chromatography Association
    - ACP = Asian American Chemistry Professionals
  - It was suggested to mention that dinner starts at 7 PM on flyer and networking hours will be from 6-7 PM
  - It was mentioned to avoid Eventbrite because it is too expensive and includes ticket fees
  - During the event the CACA will give a brief introduction around 7 or 7:30 PM
  - This event also overlaps with other events:
    - Penn, Drexel, and Temple students likely to be attending Philadelphia Organic Chemistry Club (POCC) which starts at 6:30 and ends at 9
    - To reach out to contact at chair of POCC is John Mulligan from Jefferson University
  - It was suggested to maintain a calendar of some events of the Philly ACS and other organizations to avoid future conflict
- There is no date for the Edgar Fahs Smith event in March but will be planned at a later date
- ACS National meeting will be in March as well
- **Secretary** – Andrew Devany
  - No report
- **Treasurer** – Wei Wang
  - Sent out Treasury report last week and is starting to work on Annual Report
    - Mentioned that bottleneck occurs from filing reports
    - May have to ask for extension because of filing to National but the request must come from Matt directly
    - Need approval from National, will ask in February based off of need
    - Motioned to approve report for December by Deb Cook and was seconded by Anne DeMasi
- **Chair of Council Affairs** – Anne DeMasi
  - Need to vote for who will actually be chair for this year which will come out next month
  - It was mentioned that the National Meeting is in March in New Orleans and information has gone out about reserving hotels.

#### IV. Committee Reports

- **Career Services** – Jim Murray
  - Contacted by Temple University to partake in career services event on February 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. Currently 3 people will be there but are still looking to get more people for event for next week on 17<sup>th</sup>



## **V. Planning Committee - Anne Demasi**

- Planning for event for some time in April but this date can change. It was suggested to let *the Catalyst* editor know, who will want more money to edit more pages
- Will submit an application for IPG Grant
- Planning on having a Gala event potentially at Penn University with high profile speaker, such as Judy Jordan, and will charge for dinner and tickets

## **VI. Delaware Vally Science Council - Ella Davis**

### **● The DVSC Stem Challenge Process has changed**

- Previously the group held an exam and interviews to find best and brightest by going to schools and challenging 9th and 10th grade students. The students were then judged on answers.
- There is now a pilot program to determine how best to improve this process which can be viewed at the link provided: <https://delawarevalleysciencecouncil.org/>
- There is a want to reach out to other schools and the Council is seeking members to join as mentors or volunteers. The student teams will need scientists who can help guide them through process.

### **● Philadelphia Area Chemistry Competition, PACC - Catherine Bentzley**

### **● MARM - No report**

- Floated some ideas about upcoming symposium. The original suggestion for the symposium is "Past, Present, and Future of Chemistry in Philadelphia." This name was liked and agreed upon by all. This event could recruit a variety of different speakers and multiple members volunteered to help out for recruiting and setting up event. The deadline for submission of the event is open through January 15th or later. This event will be included in the IPG Grant

### **● Budget and Finance – Victor Tortorelli**

- Thanks to Dave for filling in last month
- Budget was discussed and approved by committee last week
- Went through revisions of budget
  - \$5,000 was suggested for 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary to balance budget which was increased and approved to \$7,500. This will result in \$2,500 less invested
  - It was discussed that \$300 was allocated for the the Lunar New Year's Celebration
  - Meals should be covered by sponsorships or setting right price for food

**Next meeting, Thursday, 02-08-2024, 7:00 PM**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

Congrats to Matt as first meeting as Chair

Andrew Devany

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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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