

the Catalyst



September 2024
Volume 109, No.77



Undergraduate Students' Tour at the Science History Institute Saturday, October 19th 2024

If you, your school, or your students are interested, please email Prof. Michael Castaldi at castaldimj@gmail.com to RSVP.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

OCTOBER MEETING

Philadelphia Section Award

October 30, 2024

Location and date to be shared at www.PhillyACS.org

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Published monthly except July, August and December by the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. All views expressed are those of the editors and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. Editorial matters should be sent to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief c/o the Philadelphia Section ACS, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 231 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323 or PhilaACS@gmail.com.

Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments From the Chair



Welcome back! Whether you're welcoming students back to the classroom or simply feeling recharged from some well-deserved vacation time, we're excited to reconnect with you this fall. The new season brings fresh opportunities, and we're eager to share what's ahead for our community.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our 125th Anniversary Gala—a truly historic event for our Section. Held at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History on September 4th, the evening featured an inspiring keynote by Dr. Joseph DeSimone, along with thoughtful remarks from Councilmember Mark Squilla and ACS CEO Albert Horvath. The event was a reflection on our rich history and a look forward to the future of chemistry, making it a night to remember.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, including Arcadium Lithium and International Flavors and Fragrances, and Thomas Jefferson University. We also want to thank our academic sponsors: Ursinus College, Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Rutgers University-Camden. A special thank you goes to the national ACS for their support through the LSAC ACS LS-MEET and IPG Grants, which were instrumental in making this event a success. Lastly, we extend our appreciation to the Gala Committee, especially co-chairs Anne DeMasi and Deborah Cook, for their outstanding efforts in organizing this memorable occasion.

On September 9th, we hosted the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture at the University of Pennsylvania, which honors the legacy of Edgar Fahs Smith, a renowned chemist and past president of the ACS. This year's lecture, delivered by Prof. Emily Balskus of Harvard University, focused on "Chemical Discovery in the Microbial World." The event, which included a reception, highlighted cutting-edge research in microbial chemistry and paid tribute to the long-standing collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania and the ACS. It was a memorable evening of science and community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to invite you to a special tour of the Science History Institute on Saturday, October 19th, designed specifically for undergraduate students. This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to delve into the history of the chemical sciences and connect with professionals in the field. We encourage you to spread the word to students and institutions that might benefit from this experience. Those interested can RSVP by emailing Michael Castaldi at castaldimj@gmail.com.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the Philadelphia Section Awards in October. This prestigious event honors members who have made significant contributions to the field of chemistry, both in advancing science and in fostering public appreciation of the profession. Past recipients have included leaders from both academia and industry, and we anticipate another inspiring ceremony this year. Details will be shared on our website soon.

Finally, don't miss the opportunity to attend the Ullyot Lecture on November, Thursday 14th, featuring Professor Omar Yaghi, a pioneer in reticular chemistry. This lecture promises to be a thought-provoking exploration of cutting-edge materials science. Be sure to secure your free tickets soon by registering on Eventbrite: [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Philadelphia Local Section. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and continuing our shared journey in the chemical sciences.

Warm regards,

Dr. Matthew Irwin

Chair, ACS Philadelphia Local Section

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

Rutgers University chemistry professor, **Georgia A. Arbuckle-Keil**, received The Faculty Scholar-Teacher award. The award honors tenured faculty members who have made outstanding synergistic contributions in research and teaching. This award recognizes those who make visible the vital link between teaching and scholarship by contributing to the scholarship of teaching and by bringing together scholarly and classroom activities.

Santanu Malakar has been appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor at Rutgers University-Camden. He received his PhD in Chemistry from Rutgers University with Prof. Alan Goldman, working on catalytic activation of small molecules using pincer-ligated molybdenum and ruthenium complexes. Prior to his appointment at Rutgers-Camden, Santanu was also appointed as the 2022 Vagelos Institute Postdoctoral Fellow in the labs of Profs. Karen Goldberg and Marisa Kozlowski at the University of Pennsylvania. His postdoctoral research focused on catalytic dehydrogenation and carboxylation of waste polymers using high-valent pincer complexes.

Patrick J. Walsh, professor of chemistry in the School of Arts & Sciences at Penn will receive an ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar award in 2025. The award recognizes and encourages excellence in organic chemistry.

DEATHS

Theodore “Ted” Charles Miller, retired research chemist and patent agent, September 7, 2022 at age 89. He joined Sterling Winthrop Research Institute in 1959 where he was engaged as a research chemist. Later he became a patent agent for the organization where he drafted and prosecuted patent applications for pharmaceutical inventions, retiring in 1993. He was a 60-year member of ACS.

Siraik Zakarian, biochemist, August 15, 2024 at 82. Her major field of study was endorphin peptides. She served as an assistant professor at the Basel Institute for Immunology in Geneva,

and a researcher at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London. She also worked at the University of Pennsylvania's Wistar Institute.

Dr. Zakarian took an apartment at Philadelphia's Bergdoll Mansion in the Spring Garden area. Following a fire there in 1989 she bought the building and had it repaired and restored. She took special pride in the mansion's gardens.

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

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.



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia



Science History Institute
Museum & Library

Undergraduate Students' Tour at the Science History Institute

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, October 19th, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Location: Science History Institute, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Hosted By:

ACS Philadelphia Local Section Senior Chemists, Younger Chemists, and Career Chemists Committees in partnership with Jefferson Chemistry Students and Faculty

Program Schedule:

Time	Activity
11:00 AM	Arrival at the Science History Institute
11:15 AM	Breakout into Small Groups
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Guided Museum Tour
1:00 PM	Walk to Lunch (Location TBA)
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Lunch and Small Group Discussions
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Optional Walking Tour of Philadelphia with Professor Castaldi

Why Attend?

- **Engage with Senior Chemists:** Gain insights from professionals who have witnessed the evolution of the field.
- **Career Guidance:** Receive resume feedback and discuss your future with members of the ACS Philadelphia Section.
- **Network:** Meet fellow chemistry students from various institutions.
- **Learn About ACS Membership:** Discover the benefits of becoming an ACS student member.

There is no fee for the museum visit. Lunch is pay-as-you-go.

Contact Information and how to RSVP:

If you, your school, or your students are interested, please email Prof. Michael Castaldi at castaldimj@gmail.com to RSVP.



2024 NCW Illustrated Poem Contest Picture Perfect Chemistry

The Philadelphia Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, celebrating the chemistry of medicine and health.

Contest Deadline: Sunday, October 27, 2024 by 11:59 PM Eastern

Prizes: \$50.00 for the winner of each grade category (K-2 / 3-5 / 6-8 / 9-12)

Each student who enters will also receive a certificate.

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

Submission: Submit a scanned PDF of your entry at <https://forms.gle/JFvMYC2BiWBgqWbg9>

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 NCW theme, **"Picture Perfect Chemistry."**

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:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| • Chemical reaction | • Film |
| • Molecules | • Filters |
| • Transparent | • Lens |
| • Ultrasound | • Imaging |
| • Colloid | • Pixel |

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:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 NCW 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 entry for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes. • Do not place participant names on the front of your poem |
|---|--|





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2024 NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

The election will include 1 Chair-Elect, 1 Treasurer, 5 Members for the Board of Directors, 3 Councilors, and 3 Alternate Councilors

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Catherine M. Bentzley
Isaac Choi
Deborah H. Cook
Michael J. Castaldi
Melissa Cichowicz
Isabella Goodenough
James K. Murray, Jr.
Tamar Norquist
Ann M. Valentine

Councilor

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Michael J. Castaldi
David J. Cichowicz
Melissa Cichowicz
Anne S. DeMasi
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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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