



ERIE LOCAL SECTION  
OF THE AMERICAN  
CHEMICAL SOCIETY

# Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 19, 2013

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*Penn State Erie—The Behrend College*

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*Mercyhurst University*

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## Chair's Message

Welcome to the 2013 Newsletter for the Erie section of the American Chemical Society. It's hard to believe that another year has passed since the 2012 newsletter last August.

The Executive Committee worked hard over the past year to update and revise the section bylaws, which had not been updated since 1976! The bylaws were submitted to the ACS Committee on Constitution & Bylaws and were approved with minor changes. We will be calling for section members to vote on the revised bylaws at one of our section meetings in the fall.

The Erie section was involved with many great events this past year. Our section hosted five

speaker meetings at various college campuses in the area. These included a mix of outside and inside speakers discussing several aspects of chemistry. The last meeting of the academic year was our annual Awards Banquet and at the meeting, we recognized local college students who excelled in the study of chemistry, and local high school students who participated in the national Chemistry Olympiad exam.



Presque Isle Bay in Erie, PA

In the fall, one of the biggest events the Erie section is involved with is our National Chemistry Week (NCW) event at the Millcreek Mall. The 2012 theme was "Nanotechnology – The Smallest Big Idea in Science". The 2013 NCW theme is "Energy...Now and Forever!".

If you have any suggestions for speakers for our section meetings or other events that you think would fit the mission of our section, then please pass these ideas along to any of the section officers or councilors. The section can always use volunteers to help with events during the year, so please consider volunteering when calls go out from our section secretary.

—JAY AMICANGELO

## Summer Kick-Off Picnic with Sigma Xi

The Erie Local Section is co-hosting a summer picnic with our friends from the Northwest PA Chapter of Sigma Xi! Please join us at the Glenwood Park Picnic Shelter (next to the Erie Zoo) on Thursday, August 22 at 6:30 PM. At this event, meet scientists from both organizations and

catch up with colleagues. Family members, as well as any new faculty members and students are all invited to attend this fun and informal networking event. We

will provide refreshments, hot dogs and burgers, so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! RSVP by August 19th: [www.sciencebbq.eventbrite.com](http://www.sciencebbq.eventbrite.com) password: *summer2013*

We hope to see you in August!

— LISA NOGAJ





Updates to the Erie Local Section bylaws are nearly complete.

*Consider nominating yourself for office when the Call for Nominations goes out this fall.*

Do you have both a paper and an online resume?



## Updating the Section's Bylaws

The bylaws of the Erie Local Section provide its organizational structure and operating responsibilities. In August 2012, the Executive Committee began updating the bylaws to align the terms of all officers from January 1 to December 31, and to reflect new language suggested by ACS. In March

2013, revisions were submitted to the ACS Committee on Constitution & Bylaws. Following review from the national committee, all recommended and required changes were made, and the final draft was submitted in June 2013.

The process of updating the bylaws is expected to be com-

pleted this fall, pending a quorum vote of approval by our membership at an upcoming fall speaker meeting.

The bylaws were last amended and revised in 1976. Copies of the original and revised bylaws are available on our website at <http://erie.sites.acs.org>.

— LISA NOGAJ

## 2013 Erie ACS Election News

Please consider serving your local section. The following offices will be open for election this year:

- Chair (1 year term)
- Vice-Chair (1 year term)
- Secretary (1 year term)
- Treasurer (1 year term)
- Councilor (3 year term)
- Executor (2 year term)

If you have questions about running for office, please contact one of the Executors:

Matthew Heerboth ([heerboth001@gannon.edu](mailto:heerboth001@gannon.edu))

Amy Parente ([aparente@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:aparente@mercyhurst.edu))

— MATTHEW HEERBOTH

Date	Description
Sept. 1	Call for Nominations is distributed to section members
Oct. 1	Nominations are due to Executors
Oct. 15	Ballots are distributed to section members
Nov. 1	Ballots are due to Executors
Nov. 15	Election results are announced
Jan. 1	New terms begin

## Young Chemists' Resume Workshop

A recruiter reads three resumes, but which applicant gets the interview? Learn valuable insider tips for becoming the most competitive applicant at "Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Managing Your Paper and Online Resumes", hosted by the Erie Local Section's Younger Chemists Committee.

At this event, join local chemists for gourmet desserts from *Icing on the Lake* and informal networking, followed by a live national webinar broadcast hosted by Dr. David Harwell, Director of ACS Careers. Review sample resumes in this interactive workshop, then ask your resume questions to Dr. Harwell and special guest panelists, including recruiters from major chemical companies.

"Putting Your Best Foot Forward" will be held at Gannon University on October 8 at 6:30 PM, and is open to all students and local chemists seeking to create or improve their resumes. Attendance will be especially valuable for candidates preparing for job interviews. This is also a great event for chemistry clubs and upper-level chemistry classes!

— LISA NOGAJ

# Annual Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities



Get charged up for NCW 2013, all about energy...or get ready for the 46th International Chemistry Olympiad in 2014, to be hosted by Vietnam!



The Erie Local Section offers exciting opportunities for members to get involved in outreach and volunteer events! We have some great programming coming up this year, so please consider being part of these exciting events.

## National Chemistry Week

The National Chemistry Week 2013 theme is "Energy...Now and Forever!" We're always going to need energy, so help us to engage shoppers at the Millcreek Mall with demonstrations and interactive experiments that will show how energy moves us and how we can have energy now...and forever!

Volunteers are needed on November 2 to set up and help out with demonstrations. Contact local coordinator **Adrienne Gilbert** ([amc27@psu.edu](mailto:amc27@psu.edu)) with your questions or to sign up today!

## Chemistry Olympiad

The Erie Local Section of ACS is seeking interested members to assist with administration of the

ACS National Chemistry Olympiad exam to high schools in our section this spring. Volunteers attend one Chemistry Olympiad planning meeting in February and then proctor one or two 90-minute Chemistry Olympiad exams in surrounding counties during March. Contact local coordinator **Shawn Feiock** ([sfeiock@eriesd.org](mailto:sfeiock@eriesd.org)) with your questions or to sign up today!

## Did You Know?

**Mole Day is**

**celebrated on**

**October 23 from**

**6:02 am to 6:02**

**pm as part of**

**National**

**Chemistry**

**Week!**

## Erie ACS Awards Banquet Highlights



On April 15, the local section held its annual Awards Banquet at Gannon University.

Just in time for Earth Day, special

guest speakers Dr. Markus Eriksen and Anna Cummins from the 5 Gyres Institute presented "The Perils of Plastic: Notes from the Oceans and the Great Lakes". Their presentation took the audience on a seafaring adventure! They revealed how the world's gyres are being affected by plastic pollution, and how we can all help.

Also announced were the **2013 Outstanding First Year Chemistry Award** winners, selected by the

faculty of their school for outstanding performance in first year chemistry.

- *Claire Porterfield* (Allegheny College)
- *Michael Spicuzza* (Edinboro Univ.)
- *Timothy Shearer* (Gannon Univ.)
- *Sara Mills* (Mercyhurst Univ.)
- *Susanne Simkovitch* (PSU- Behrend)
- *Abby Gallagher* (Univ. Pitt at Titusville)

Top students who competed in the National Chemistry Olympiad received a **2013 Chemistry Olympiad Award**.

- *Shaun Evans* (General McLane H.S.)
- *Zhenrong Lin* (General McLane H.S.)
- *Riley Robertson* (Fairview H.S.)
- *Lacey Readkiewicz* (Ft. LeBoeuf H.S.)
- *Mackenzie McDonald* (McDowell H.S.)
- *Joe Nechleba* (McDowell H.S.)
- *Marc Parnell* (Mercyhurst Prep.)



- *Steven Perry* (Mercyhurst Prep.)
- *Samantha Galla* (NWPA Collegiate Acad.)
- *Josh Wilkerson* (NWPA Collegiate Acad.)

Three member awards were announced. The **2013 Erie Local Section Teacher of the Year** recognized Mary Harsh; the **2013 Erie Local Section Volunteer of the Year** recognized Shawn Feiock; and the **2013 Erie Local Section Member of the Year** recognized Lisa Nogaj.

Congratulations to all our award winners!

# GALA Advocates for STEM Education in PA

An ACS committee to promote STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in schools at all levels was established in 2008. This committee is called PA GALA (Government and Legislative Affairs) and the northwest PA committee member is Carolyn Ruth. The proportion of the workforce working in STEM fields jumped from 17% to 23% from 1994 to 2003. At the same time,

fewer American students than ever are graduating from college with math and science degrees. In general, American students' disinterest in math and science continues at the graduate level, too. The U.S. will not have enough trained scientists and engineers in the future to fill STEM jobs, jobs that lead to new products and processes that sustain our industrial base and enable us to compete globally.

Examples of how PA GALA is advocating better STEM education include: (1) working with legislators and other groups to develop and retain a high quality math and science teaching workforce, (2) emphasizing that math and science must be key subjects from K-12, (3) encouraging incentives for students to study in the STEM fields and enter STEM careers, and (4) raising public awareness about STEM importance.

— CAROLYN RUTH



## Erie ACS Fall Calendar



**Mark your calendar and save the dates!**

### FALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### **Summer Picnic Co-hosted with Sigma Xi**

August 22 at Glenwood Park, 6:30 PM

#### **ACS 246th Fall National Meeting**

September 8–12 in Indianapolis, IN

#### **Younger Chemists Committee Resume Writing Workshop**

October 8 at Gannon University, 6:30 PM

#### **National Chemistry Week**

November 2 at the Millcreek Mall

### FALL SPEAKER MEETINGS (TENTATIVE)

#### **Erie ACS September Meeting**

To be held at Allegheny College

#### **Erie ACS October Meeting**

To be held at Mercyhurst University

#### **Erie ACS November Meeting Topic: Chemistry and Birds**

November 14 at Gannon University, 7:00 PM

Up-to-date information for all events will be provided by email announcements and on the Erie Local Section website.



The Erie Local Section of the American Chemical Society encompasses Erie and Crawford counties in northwestern Pennsylvania. Our local section was chartered in 1923 and serves a diverse membership from all fields of chemistry, ranging from student members to retired chemists. The overall goals of our group are to increase collaborative interaction between local chemists, to foster opportunities for career development, and to invigorate community interest in the sciences through outreach programs.

To provide feedback or content suggestions for the next issue of this Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor, Lisa Nogaj, at [nogaj002@gannon.edu](mailto:nogaj002@gannon.edu).

For additional information about getting involved in the ACS Erie Local Section, please contact any of your section officers or visit us online.

<http://erie.sites.acs.org>