



# Newsletter

ERIE LOCAL SECTION  
OF THE AMERICAN  
CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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AUGUST 15, 2014

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## Chair's Message

Welcome to the 2014 Newsletter for the Erie section of the American Chemical Society. It's hard to believe that another year has passed since the 2014 newsletter last August. The executive committee worked hard over the past two years to update and revise the section bylaws, which had not been updated since 1976! The updated bylaws were certified by the ACS Committee on Constitution and Bylaws on February 4, 2014. A link to the final certified bylaws has been posted on our section website.

The Erie section was also involved with many great events over the past year. Our section hosted eight section meetings at the various college campuses in

the area over the previous year and these included a mix of local speakers, non-local speakers and ACS webinars discussing various aspects of chemistry. The last meeting of the academic year is always our annual Awards Banquet in April and at this meeting we recognized local college students that excelled in the study of chemistry and local high school students that participated in the national Chemistry Olym-



Erie Local Section of ACS

piad exam. 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 fall 2013 theme was "Energy Now and Forever". The theme for the 2014 NCW is "The Sweet Side of Chemistry – Candy".

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 various events during the year, so please consider becoming a volunteer when the calls go out from our section secretary.

—JAY AMICANGELO

## Summer Kick-Off Picnic with Sigma Xi

The Erie Local Section is once again co-hosting a picnic with our friends from the Northwest PA Chapter of Sigma Xi. Last year's picnic included nearly fifty attendees from both organizations! Please join us at the Glenwood Park Picnic Shelter (next to the Erie Zoo) on **Thursday, August**

**21, 6:30-8:30 PM.** Catch up with colleagues old and new, meet family members and friends, and make connections at this fun annual social. We will provide refreshments, hot dogs and burgers. If you like, bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share, and any other beverages!

Please use the EventBrite link to RSVP by August 20th. We hope to see you at the park!

[www.kickoffpicnic.eventbrite.com](http://www.kickoffpicnic.eventbrite.com)  
password: *sciencebbq*

—LISA NOGAJ



## “Speaking Simply” Program-in-a-Box



Are you an expert in Speaking Simply...or is your audience lost in the details?

Want to make a difference with ACS? Consider nominating yourself for office this September!

An ACS Leadership Development Course is coming to Erie in November!



Have you ever explained your research to someone, only to face puzzled looks? Learn crucial skills to convey the results of your work effectively at “Speaking Simply: Communicating Your Science”, hosted by the Erie Local Section Younger Chemists Committee.

This is no ordinary webinar. Meet local chemists and students while enjoying delicious cupcakes from *Icing on the*

*Lake*. Then test your ability to speak simply through interactive networking activities. At 7:00 PM, sit back, relax and enjoy a live national webinar broadcast featuring Mr. Doug Dollemore and Mr. Darcy Gentleman, two lively and engaging science communication experts from the ACS Office of Public Affairs. Save your questions for the live Q&A session that follows!

“Speaking Simply” will be held at Gannon University on **October 7, 6:00-8:00 PM**, and is open to all local chemists and students. Attendance will be especially valuable for candidates preparing for job interviews or planning to present their research at a conference this year. This is a perfect event for chemistry clubs and upper-level chemistry classes.

— LISA NOGAJ

## Rock the Vote or Run for Office!

Please consider serving your local section by self-nominating for one of these Erie ACS positions.

- 2015 Chair (1-year term)
- 2015 Vice-Chair (1-year term)
- 2015 Secretary (1-year term)
- 2015 Treasurer (1-year term)
- 2015-2016 Councilor (2-year term)
- 2015-2016 Executor (2-year term)

Please contact the Erie Local Section Executors with questions. Remember to vote in the local and national ACS elections this fall!

— MATTHEW HEERBOTH

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

## Become a Leader with ACS Courses

The Erie ACS was recently awarded a grant to host an ACS Leadership Development Course, right here in Erie, on **November 13, 2014!** From this acclaimed series, we will be hosting “Developing Communication Strategies”, a highly interactive workshop where attendees will work in small groups to practice while learning the following.

- ◆ The 4 elements of an effective communication strategy
- ◆ A simple process for developing effective strategies
- ◆ The key questions to ask (and answer!) in developing communication strategies
- ◆ A proven process to improve communications in your local section, community, volunteer activities, family & work.

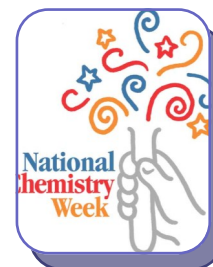
Knowing how to present your ideas, support your assertions, and persuade others to take action are keys to effective leadership. At this workshop, discover how a comprehensive communication strategy can make your own goals and the goals of ACS possible. Scholarships worth \$150 are available to the first twelve registrants on EventBrite. Look for the announcement this fall!

— LISA NOGAJ

# National Chemistry Week & Chemistry Olympiad



Sucrose, galactose, and fructose, oh my! Enjoy the sweet side of chemistry this fall or volunteer with the IChO this spring.



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

## National Chemistry Week

The NCW 2014 theme is “The Sweet Side of Chemistry—Candy”, showcasing the chemistry involved in candy and confections. Help us engage shoppers at the Millcreek Mall with demonstrations and interactive experiments to show the public just how sweet science (and science careers) can be!

Can you volunteer on **November 1** to set up and help out with demonstrations at the mall? If so, please sign up today by emailing our local NCW coordinators, Matthew Heerboth and Jason Bennett ([heerboth001@gannon.edu](mailto:heerboth001@gannon.edu) & [jab95@psu.edu](mailto:jab95@psu.edu)).

## Erie ACS Chemistry Olympiad

The Erie Local Section is seeking

interested members to help administer the ACS National Chemistry Olympiad exam to high schools in our section this spring. Volunteers will attend a debriefing meeting in February and proctor one or two 90-minute Chemistry Olympiad exams in March. Contact local IChO coordinator Shawn Feiock ([sfeiock@eriesd.org](mailto:sfeiock@eriesd.org)) with your questions or to sign up today!

## Did You Know?

**Azerbaijan is home to the next Chemistry Olympiad. It is located north of Iran, West of the Caspian Sea and East of Armenia.**

## Erie ACS Awards Outstanding Students & Teachers



On April 21, 2014 the local section held its annual Awards Banquet at Edinboro University.

The special guest speaker was Dr. Gregg Gould from California University of Pennsylvania, who wowed the audience with “Science You Can See”. His presentation on density and standing waves featured gigantic levitating bubbles, deep-pitched homemade instruments and dance tunes set to a fiery beat with a Rubens’ tube!

**2014 Outstanding First Year Chemistry Award** winners were selected by the faculty of their school for outstanding performance in first year chemistry.

- Justin Jurczyk (Allegheny College)
- Alyssa Argento (Edinboro Univ)
- Michael Hultman (Gannon Univ)
- Kathryn Kapp (Gannon Univ)
- Gabrielle Gravino (Mercyhurst Univ)
- Emily Luteran (Penn State- Behrend)
- Kaitlyn Russo (U Pittsburgh- Titusville)



2014 Outstanding First Year Chemistry Award Winners

Ten top students who competed in the National Chemistry Olympiad received a **2014 Chemistry Olympiad Award**.

- Corey Hoydic (Cathedral Prep)
- Connor Wurst (Cathedral Prep)
- Hunter Truitt (General McLane HS)
- Noah Mordel (Harbor Creek Sr HS)
- Jessica Cauley (McDowell HS)
- Aiden McKnight (McDowell HS)
- William Ransom Greenleaf (Mercyhurst Prep)



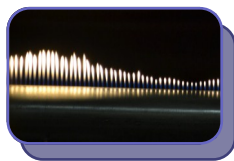
2014 Chemistry Olympiad Award Winners

- Zezhou Zhao (Mercyhurst Prep)
- Anthony Hall (NWPA Collegiate Acad)
- Josh Wilkerson (NWPA Collegiate Acad)

# ACS Awards-- con't.

**2014 Chemistry Olympiad Teacher Awards** recognized outstanding mentorship by area high school teachers to students participating in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad.

- Brian Markley (Cathedral Prep)
- Bradley Wheeler (General McLane HS)
- Gina Narducci (Harbor Creek Sr HS)
- Jacob Tobolewski (McDowell HS)
- Robert Hodgson (McDowell HS)
- Jane Fisher (Mercyhurst Prep)
- Calvin Wheeler (NWPA Collegiate Acad)



Rubens' tube ...a crowd favorite!

Congratulations to Mr. Robert Hodgson, the **2014 Erie Local Section Teacher of the Year** and to Dr. Adrienne Gilbert, the **2014 Erie Local Section Member of the Year!** **Congratulations, Erie ACS award winners!**

# PASSPORT: Tour the Talks!

The Erie Local Section officers have approved a fun new incentive program aimed at increasing attendance at section meetings, named the Passport Program. Based on the success of the spring pilot program, the Passport Program is back by popular demand for 2014-2015!

Here's how it works. Section members may pick up a Passport book at any local section event and have it stamped at every Erie ACS



event they attend this year. Section members who attend at least **four** section events or volunteer activities will be entered into a random drawing at our annual spring awards banquet. The lucky winner will receive a **\$50 gift card from Amazon.com**. We hope you will be able to attend many Erie ACS events this year. Remember to get your first stamp at the Summer Kick-Off Picnic in August!

— ERIE SECTION OFFICERS

## Erie ACS Fall Events Calendar



**Please save the dates and mark your calendar!**

**AUGUST 21. Kick-Off Picnic with Sigma Xi**  
Thursday evening at Glenwood Park, 6:30-8:30 PM

**SEPTEMBER 25. Speaker Meeting with Dr. Mike Justik (Penn State Behrend)**  
Thursday evening at Penn State Behrend

**OCTOBER 7. Webinar with the Erie ACS Younger Chemists Committee: "Speaking Simply: Communicating Your Science"**  
Tuesday evening at Gannon University, 6:00-8:00 PM

**NOVEMBER 1. National Chemistry Week**  
Saturday morning at the Millcreek Mall

**NOVEMBER 13. Leadership Development Course: "Developing Communication Strategies"**  
Thursday evening at Penn State Behrend

**DECEMBER 11. December Holiday Party**  
Thursday evening at The Plymouth Tavern (Erie), 5:30 PM

Stay tuned! 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 suggest content, propose a member for us to spotlight, advertise job opportunities, or provide feedback for the next issue of this Newsletter, please contact 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>