



ERIE LOCAL SECTION
OF THE AMERICAN
CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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AUGUST 20, 2015

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Chair's Message

Welcome to the 2015 Newsletter for the Erie section of the American Chemical Society. It's hard to believe that another year has passed since the newsletter last August. The Erie section was involved with many great events over the past year. Our section



Jay Amicangelo,
Erie ACS Chair

hosted five section meetings at the college campuses in the area over the previous year and these included a mix of 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. 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 Olympiad exam.

Speaking of the Chemistry Olympiad, this year we had a new Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator; Dr. Christine Saber from Gannon University. Dr. Saber took over as the Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator in the fall and did a great job this year.

One of the biggest events the Erie section is involved with is our National Chemistry Week (NCW) event at the Millcreek Mall. The fall 2014 theme was "The Sweet Side of Chemistry – Candy". The theme for the 2015 NCW is "Chemistry Colors our World!".

If you have 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 the calls go out from our section secretary.

—JAY AMICANGELO

Erie ACS Wins ChemLuminary Award!

We are proud to announce that the Erie Local Section is the recipient of the "2015 Outstanding Performance by a Local Section – Small Size Category Award". The ChemLuminary winners were announced at the 250th ACS National Meeting in Boston, MA on August 18, 2015.



The Erie Local Section is one of 188 ACS local sections and one of 52 local sections in the small size category (50-199 members). The Executive Committee submitted a self-nomination with our annual FORMS report in February to highlight the successes of our programming over the past year.

ChemLuminary—con't.



The Erie Local Section shines bright at the ChemLuminary Awards in Boston.

The Erie Local Section welcomes all members interested in running for office this fall!

Back to school: Fostering Innovation course to be hosted in Erie.

ACS
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM



In May, the Erie ACS was notified of its status as a finalist. Secretary Lisa Nogaj and Councilor Betty Jo Chitester collaborated to generate a poster presentation, which Dr. Chitester delivered at the ACS National Meeting in Boston. The Erie Local Section was selected among three outstanding finalists for this award.

From the ACS announcement::

"The Erie section had well-rounded activities that included a successful NCW demo at the mall; a webinar for members on speaking simply about science to the public; and a celebration for Black History Month. The newsletter and website were frequently updated, and to increase attendance at activities, a passport was initiated for attendance offering prizes for winners."

This is the 17th year for the ACS ChemLuminary Awards. Congratulations to our section members on this prestigious national recognition! We look forward to continued innovation from our members and are pleased to offer quality programming for our section members and the community.

— LISA NOGAJ

Catalyze the Vote ↔ Run for Office

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

- 2016 Chair (1-year term)
- 2016 Vice-Chair (1-year term)
- 2016 Secretary (1-year term)
- 2016 Treasurer (1-year term)
- 2016-2018 Alt. Councilor (3-year term)
- 2016-2017 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 AND KEITH KRISE

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

Leadership Development Workshop

The Erie ACS was recently awarded a grant to host an ACS Leadership Development Course, right here in Erie, on **October 24, 2015**. We will be hosting "Fostering Innovation", a highly interactive workshop where attendees will collaborate in small groups and learn how to tap into our creativity.

Attendees in this 4-hour course will learn:

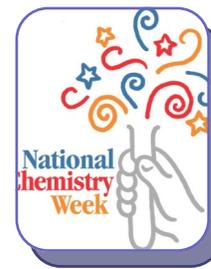
- ◆ The barriers to innovation and how to manage them
- ◆ The different ways in which people are innovative
- ◆ Four approaches to generating ideas
- ◆ How to stimulate innovative thinking, challenge traditional approaches and encourage diverse perspectives

This workshop applies to anyone "who needs to increase their innovative thinking, ideas and approaches to move a project or team forward." Attendees can apply these skills to professional, school, volunteer and leadership roles. Scholarships worth \$150 are available to the first twelve registrants on EventBrite. Look for the announcement early this fall!

— LISA NOGAJ

National Chemistry Week

A rainbow of volunteer opportunities await...get involved in our local outreach programs this year!



The 2015 National Chemistry Week (NCW) theme is "Chemistry Colors our World", and we're showcasing the fascinating chemistry of dyes, pigments and light. The Erie ACS will once again be part of this national science celebration as we host our annual chemistry demo show at the Millcreek Mall on **Saturday, November 7**.

New volunteers are always welcome! Last year, we had 50 volunteers sharing NCW with over 100 shoppers and families. Volunteers can choose to help set up and take down the event, perform demonstrations or discuss chemistry with the public. Our NCW coordinators make it easy by supplying all of the materials and instructions!

ACS members, teachers, students and friends of the local section are invited to join us for this fun event. To sign up as an individual or to bring your group of science enthusiasts, please contact our Erie NCW coordinators: **Matthew Heerboth** (heerboth001@gannon.edu) and **Jason Bennett** (jab95@psu.edu).



Chemistry Olympiad Exam

The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) is a chemistry competition for high school students. The IChO motivates young people to achieve excellence in chemistry. ACS has sponsored the program since 1984.

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 are asked to proctor one or two 90-

minute Chemistry Olympiad exams in March 2016. Contact our Erie IChO coordinator **Christine Saber** with questions (saber001@gannon.edu) or to get involved with this great outreach program!

Did You Know?

The 2016

Chemistry

Olympiad will

be held in

Pakistan.

Erie ACS Partners with City Mission

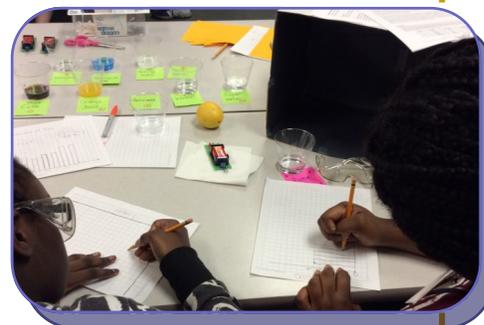
In spring 2015, the Erie City Mission reached out to the Erie Local Section, seeking volunteers for their week-long summer program in chemistry. The volunteer opportunity was advertised to section members, yielding a group of seven volunteers from the Gannon University Chemistry Department.

The chemistry campers were part of a group discussion on science careers, where they talked about the impact someone can have as a

chemist, the personal qualities that many chemists have or try to develop, and the logistics of how to plan for and succeed in high school and college.

Campers put their chemistry skills to the test in five rotations. They measured the speed of light, tested conductivity of solutions, created lemon batteries, separated green food coloring and learned ins and outs of chirality.

The Erie ACS is always glad to work with new community partners each year!

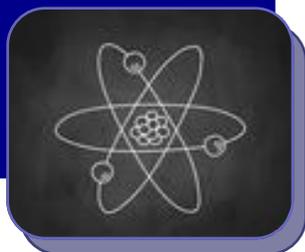


Erie ACS Member Spotlight



Erie Local Section members shine in our new Member Spotlight.

Did You Know?
The Erie ACS recognizes one outstanding section member and one outstanding high school teacher at our Awards Banquet each year. Nominations are accepted February-March!



NEWSLETTER

In the Erie ACS Member Spotlight, we highlight the career or volunteer contributions of a member of our local section. To submit a spotlight for yourself or another member, please email **Lisa Nogaj** (nogaj002@gannon.edu).

ROGER C. BAETZOLD

I am an emeritus member of ACS having recently moved to Erie following retirement from Kodak. I received a PhD in chemistry from University of Rochester and worked 35 years in the Kodak Research Laboratories. This work involved a number of different physical chemistry problems in photographic related areas. The problems have included

work in the silver halide area and non-silver applications and cover the kinetics of dye formation in solution, silver nanoparticle properties and their mechanism of formation, surface spectroscopies of catalysts, heterogeneous catalysis for various chemical conversions, storage phosphors and a variety of computational approaches to these problems. A large part of this work is published in ACS journals.

In my retirement, I have participated in a number of activities inside and outside of chemistry. My continuing chemistry interests have centered on applying quantum mechanical calculations to a number of scientific aspects of problems I worked on previously. A recent computational paper on silver-water clusters was published in *J. Phys. Chem. C*, **2015**, *119*, 8299.

2015 Erie Local Section Volunteer of the Year

The ACS Committee of Community Activities established the **Local Section Outreach Volunteers of the Year Award** to recognize one member of each local section "for demonstrating extraordinary outreach volunteer service within the section." This year's recipient of the award is Dr. Betty Jo Chitester, a chemistry professor at Gannon University and our local section councilor. Her nomination is highlighted on the national ACS website.

"Dr. Chitester inspires outreach in our Local Section. Last Halloween, she encouraged first-year college

students to carve pumpkins with element symbols and together, they engineered a huge Periodic Table of Pumpkins that delighted passersby! To celebrate Mole Day this year, Betty Jo gathered student helpers and stirred up liquid nitrogen ice cream, sharing treats with people passing through the science building. She performed demonstrations at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network and Roosevelt Middle School, bringing the joy of science to underprivileged children. Her ability to inspire young people in our community truly makes her deserving of this award."

Congratulations on your achievement, Dr. Chitester, and thank you for your chemistry outreach!



Betty Jo Chitester, 2015 Erie ACS Volunteer of the Year

2015 Erie Local Section Teacher of the Year

The Erie Local Section recognizes excellence in high school education each year by awarding our **Local Section Teacher of the Year Award**. This year's recipient was **Mr. Daniel Fenner**, a high school chemistry teacher in the Penncrest School District. Mr. Fenner's teaching assignments include Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2 and Forensics at Maplewood High School.

In the nomination letter submitted for Mr. Fen-

ner, he was lauded as an engaging teacher who makes chemistry fun and accessible for all learners, always maintaining the rigor that students need in order to be well-prepared for college and careers. Mr. Fenner is dedicated to laboratory safety for students and teachers and is a science outreach leader in Crawford County.

Congratulations, Mr. Fenner, on your outstanding accomplishments in chemistry education!

2015 Erie ACS Awards Banquet Recap

On April 20, 2015 the local section held its Awards Banquet at Mercyhurst University.



**Amy Parente,
Guest Speaker**

The special guest speaker was Dr. Amy Parente from Mercyhurst University, who brought the perils of micro-plastics pollution to light. Her presentation on the environmental impact of plastics helped the audience appreciate the challenges of plastic pollution on both the local and global levels.

2015 Outstanding First Year Chemistry Award winners were selected by the faculty of their school for outstanding performance in first year chemistry.

- MacKenzie Weinstein (Allegheny College)
- Nicole Wagner (Edinboro University)
- Aerial Pratt (Gannon University)
- Katheryn Yomes (Mercyhurst University)
- Alexandra Alfonso Castro (Penn State Erie, The Behrend College)
- Miranda Ochs (U. of Pittsburgh at Titusville)

The top ten students who competed in the National Chemistry Olympiad received a **2015 Chemistry Olympiad Award**.

- Noah Nocolia (Cathedral Preparatory School)
- Joseph Redinger (Cathedral Preparatory School)
- Samuel King (Fairview High School)
- Bryce Yahn (Fairview High School)
- Vincent Cross (Harbor Creek Senior High School)
- Raymond Galeza (Harbor Creek Senior High School)
- Alex Jones (McDowell High School)
- Josh Wolf (McDowell High School)
- Gavin Restifo (NWPA Collegiate Academy)
- John Wolford (NWPA Collegiate Academy)

2015 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)
- Candace Magraw (Fairview High School)

- Gina Schilajew (Harbor Creek Sr HS)
- Jacob Tobolewski (McDowell HS)
- Calvin Wheeler (NWPA Collegiate Academy)

The Erie Local Section congratulates three of our section members who reached **ACS membership milestones** this year.

- Dr. Francis Pelczar
Fifty Year ACS Member
- Mr. Frederick Sitter
Fifty Year ACS Member
- Mr. H. Earl Hill
Sixty Year ACS Member

Congratulations to all of our Erie Local Section award winners on another great year!



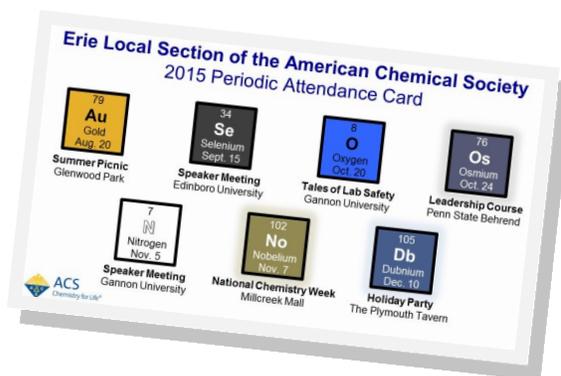
Member Engagement- Periodic Attendance Cards

Do you attend events with the Erie Local Section? Well, we hope to inspire more than a periodic attendance with our new member engagement program for 2015-2016!

The Erie ACS is pleased to announce a new incentive program. All ACS members and guests at section events will receive a Periodic Attendance Card (PAC) this year. Playing along is simple. The PAC is hole-punched at each event you attend. You will earn one raffle

ticket for each event attended. At our December Holiday Party, the lucky winner will be drawn and will receive a \$50 gift card from Amazon.com.

The PACs are wallet-sized and will be easier for members to keep track of than last year's passport books. The more events attended, the better your odds of winning...and for learning great science while growing your network. It's a win— win!





“Tales of Lab Safety” Program-in-a-Box

Mistakes in the laboratory can impede your research and cause injury. At this group webinar viewing, catch an insider’s glimpse into recent lab accidents that shocked the chemistry and laboratory safety communities. What cultural and legal aftermath followed?

broadcast featuring Mary Beth Mulcahy and Jyllian Kemsley, two engaging science safety experts from the Chemical Safety Board and ACS. Save your questions for the live Q&A session that follows!

“Tales of Lab Safety” will be held at Gannon University on **October 20, 6:30-8:00 PM**, and is open to all local chemists and students. This is a perfect event for chemistry clubs, classes and industry members.

— LISA NOGAJ



Younger Chemists Committee

Meet local chemists and students while enjoying delicious cupcakes from *Icing on the Lake*. Then test your safety know-how in our fun networking activities. At 7:00 PM, grab a seat to enjoy a live national webinar

Erie ACS Fall Events Calendar

AUGUST 20, 2015

Kick-Off Picnic with Sigma Xi

Thursday evening, August 20 at Glenwood Park, 6:30-8:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Speaker Meeting with Dr. Bill Carroll

ACS Past President and Chairman of the Board

Tuesday evening, September 15 at Edinboro University

OCTOBER 20, 2015

Program-in-a-Box with the Younger Chemists Committee

“Tales of Lab Safety” Group Webinar and Networking Event

Tuesday evening, October 20 at Gannon University, 6:30-8:00 PM

Stay tuned! Information for all section events will be provided by email announcements and will be posted on the Erie Local Section website.

OCTOBER 24, 2015

Leadership Development Course with Dr. David Harwell

ACS Assistant Director of Industry Member Programs

“Developing Communication Strategies”

Saturday morning, October 24 at Penn State Behrend

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Speaker Meeting with Dr. Chris Wohl

NASA Langley Research Center

Thursday evening, November 5 at Gannon University

NOVEMBER 7, 2015

National Chemistry Week Volunteer Event

Saturday morning, November 7 at the Millcreek Mall

DECEMBER 10, 2015

December Holiday Party/Periodic Attendance Card Raffle

Thursday evening, December 10 at The Plymouth Tavern, 6:00-8:00 PM



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

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.

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>