

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear ACS Brazosport Section,

What a great start to the year! In case you missed them, this newsletter features some of the great events we had so far in 2013. Our outreach event at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum brought smiles and science to kids. We co-hosted a networking event with numerous local professional groups that had record attendance. The other professional networks involved were the local sections of American Institute of Chemical Engineers, New Texas Research Organization, International Society of Automation, Gulf Coast Latin American Scientist Organization, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. Three of our local board members participated in a Brazoria County Petrochemical Council (BCPC) luncheon and entertained the crowd with units of measure. We even made the paper! Our BPCP involvement was discussed in the FACTS. We also had a great turnout at our fun and educational demonstrations at Take Your Child to Work Day at Dow Chemical and the Lake Jackson Historical Museum in June.

Keep up to date with our latest and upcoming activities at our website (<http://brazosport.sites.acs.org/>) and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BrazosportACSLocalSection).

Regards, Alexia (Chair of ACS Brazosport Local Section)

Brazosport ACS Awards Two Scholarships

Each year the Brazosport local section of the ACS awards two \$1000 scholarships to graduating high seniors from Brazoria County. The scholarships are awarded to students who have shown outstanding achievement in the classroom as chemistry students and plan to continue studies in the fields of chemistry or chemical engineering at the college or university level. Consideration is also given to financial need of the applicant. The 2013 application process drew a record number of applicants from local high schools. Winners of the 2013 scholarship awards are

Marissa Jean Land of Brazoswood High School
&
Benjamin Jefferson of Angleton High School

Marissa will be attending the University of Texas at Austin in the fall where she plans to major in Chemical Engineering. She credits her chemistry lab courses for her interest in the subject and already has an eye on research as a career. Benjamin has been accepted to Rice University for the fall term where he will also study Chemical Engineering. He has expressed his desire to work in the Gulf Coast chemical industry after completing his studies.

Congratulations to both of our 2013 scholarship recipients and best of luck in your career pursuits!

By Eric Klinker

Making a Better Life.....

Better Life and Day Rehab is an organization that provides a stimulating environment and daily support for mentally and physically challenged adults in Lake Jackson. We were invited to team up with the Lake Jackson Historical Museum to share the fun of science with a group of 11 members of that organization or 2 hours on April 22. David Tarai from NPN, George St. George and Bob Zeigler entertained and taught a little



with demos including the iodine clock and the dancing oobleck (Cornstarch and water on a stereo speaker - a lot of fun!). The program was wrapped up with liquid nitrogen fun (destroying flowers and rubber balls) then liquid nitrogen-cooled ice cream.

After the ice cream was eaten, Carla Schmidt worked with museum staffers to lead a craft activity – every participant made a Cartesian diver using a plastic water bottle and gobbstopper candies. While not reaching a large number of people, this program made a unique impact on the participants.

By Bob Zeigler; all photos: Brazosport ACS

Multi-Professional Society Networking Happy Hour



*Gulf Coast and Latin
America Scientist
Organization (GCLASO)*

On Wednesday, May 22, 2013, the Brazosport ACS section co-hosted an industry networking happy hour at The Local Restaurant in Lake Jackson. The other professional networks involved were the local sections of American Institute of Chemical Engineers, New Texas Research Organization, International Society of Automation, Gulf Coast Latin American Scientist Organization, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. This event was aimed to provide local area professionals with a way to network, relax and have fun in a casual setting.



The event was a huge success; over 70 people from various organization as well as co-ops attended. One highlight included a "Networking Bingo" game that encouraged attendees to mingle through the group and find people who met the criteria on their "Bingo" card. Two people successfully (and creatively) completed their cards and were awarded a coffee mug, koozie and gift card to The Local.

The industry networking series will continue in 2013. Keep your eyes open for announcements for the next event.

*-Alexia Finotello, Chanda Klinker
All photos: Brazosport ACS*





HOW MANY CHEMISTS PER SQUARE METER?

Learning about units of measure and scientific experimentation with the BCPC

On April 25th, several members of our local board participated in the annual Brazosport County Petrochemical Council (BCPC) Luncheon. There were over 100 prominent community and industry members in attendance. This year, the keynote speaker was Michael Honeycut, Director of Toxicology for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). He presented several cases showing where the TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency disagreed on policy based on the scientific data he presented.

Prior to his presentation, however, our local section warmed up the audience by engaging them in several games of logic, statistics, and units of measurement. Using these games and examples we helped to teach the audience some of the fundamentals of scientific experimentation. We counted skittles, cut up a twenty dollar bill and counted chemists in a square meter.



Eric Klinker helping to count skittles
Photo: Brazosport ACS

This was the third year that we've participated in the luncheon and as always, we had a great time. Once again, the BCPC awarded our local section with \$500 in appreciation of our involvement in the event.

*Alexia Finotello,
Chanda Klinker & Eric Klinker*

Left: Alexia Finotello, Chanda Klinker
Right: Alexia Finotello
All photos: Brazosport ACS



Brazosport Local Section goes National - ACS Spring Meeting 2013 in New Orleans

The Brazosport Local Section was well represented at the Spring ACS Meeting in New Orleans. Board members George St. George, Chanda Klinker, Bob Zeigler, and Carolyn Ribes participated in a number of technical and social events. We also joined in on the educational, outreach, and professional development events. Carolyn and Bob were impressed by the energy and focus of the undergraduate students that attended the Speed Networking event. This was Chanda's first meeting as a member of the Younger Chemist Committee. She joined the Communications subcommittee and learned quite a bit about how the YCC functions to represent the younger chemists in the ACS. George's presentation (in the NUCL Division) was his first at a National meeting. The Q&A after his talk was remarkably – spirited. Bob participated as a panel member describing industrial careers in a workshop on Employment in Chemistry: Academics, Industry, Small Business, and Government. He also had probably the most enviable role: serving as a participant in the Cajun Cooking and Chemistry Contest at Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse! The meeting attracted 15,596 participants and 11,232 papers were presented.



George St. George giving his presentation.

Highlights from ACS governance activities:

- Despite the sluggish economy, ACS generated favorable operating results in 2012.
- 2014 dues were set at \$154, following the formula for dues escalation tied to CPI.
- Although the petition to amend the National Election Procedures did not pass, two committees will take the lead on reviewing election timelines and procedures.
- ACS membership decreased slightly in 2013 to 163,322 members. There continues to be significant turnover in the student member category.
- Academic Professional Guidelines were updated.
- An updated formula for local section allocations was approved. This will have very minor impact on our local section budget.
- The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) received a request from the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry to change its name to the Division of Colloids, Surfaces and Nanomaterials. Six divisions have registered opposition to the proposed name, largely due to the use of the term 'nanomaterials'. DAC will ask Council to vote on the new name in Indianapolis, with a recommendation to approve.
- ACS President Marinda Li Wu presented and moderated a discussion on "What else should ACS do to help members to thrive in the global chemistry enterprise?". A number of excellent ideas were presented during the 30 minute discussion.
- New member benefit: Members will now receive 25 free search activities from SciFinder for personal use. Access will be offered by email invitation. For questions contact ACS Member Services at service@acs.org or 1-800-333-9511 or +1 614-447-3776

Don't forget members also have 25 free downloads from ACS publications per year!

By George St. George, Chanda Klinker, Carolyn Ribes and Bob Zeigler



Chanda Klinker (right) with the Younger Chemist Committee.



Bob, Terry and Christopher Zeigler with Nick L. Mole, Fresno State's Chemistry Club Mascot

Annual ACS Leadership Development Institute

Our Section was well represented at the annual ACS Leadership Institute in Dallas, TX, from Jan 25 to 27, 2013. This annual event brings together Local Section, Division, and other ACS leaders, including the Presidential Succession and Board members. In addition to providing training on specific ACS roles, participants learned about ACS strategy and focus areas, and were able to share their concerns with ACS leaders.

Alexia Finotello, 2013 Chair, received a Leadership Development Award through the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) to attend the Leadership Development Workshop at the ACS Leadership Institute. This workshop is designed to help young chemists (<35 years of age) develop into highly skilled leaders in the Society and in their chosen profession. Throughout the workshop, participants chose two ACS development courses. Alexia attended Coaching and Feedback as well as Leading without Authority. Both classes were not only useful in developing skills for ACS leadership positions but were also highly relevant to skills in the workplace. The workshop brought together both undergraduates starting their journeys in chemistry as well as graduate students, post-docs, educators and industry professionals.

Alexia attended the Leadership Institute last year as our section's Chair-Elect. The experience through the YCC track was engaging, motivational and informative. The YCC workshop is an excellent way to learn about the ACS and the YCC whether you are already involved in the ACS or just starting to look for new growth opportunities. This Institute weekend provides an excellent venue for strengthening leadership, management and communication skills. It is also an amazing opportunity to meet other ACS local, regional and national leadership.

Applications are accepted between August 1st and November 1st of each year. More information can be found on the ACS website or by emailing ycc.exec@gmail.com. If you want to know anything else about Alexia's experience, please email her at afinotello@dow.com.

Bradley Seurer, 2013 Chair-Elect and 2013 Chair, joined the Local Section track. The one and a half day workshop focused on addressing Local Section issues such as membership retention, event planning, the annual report, and budgeting. Brad also attended training sessions on Fostering Innovation and Engaging and Motivating Volunteers. Besides learning many new techniques, these sessions were a great opportunity to interact with members of other local sections, and learn about some of the unique events they have in their sections. The Leadership Institute provided the necessary tools and resources to lead the Brazosport Local Section better.

By Alexia Finotello & Brad Seurer

"Take Your Child to Work Day" at Dow

Dow's Take Your Child to Work Day was a big success in part because of the Brazosport Chapter ACS-planned Science is pHun segment.



Bob, Carla and over 12 volunteers showed 190 children, ages 12 to 19, how Dow's "CSI" team analyzes unknown compounds, including demos in chromatography, spectroscopy and the destruction of elastomers by first freezing them in LN₂. After a series of 5 breakout sessions that allowed the kids to have hands-on experiences with everything from plastic products to slime to oobleck, the group re-convened to make liquid nitrogen ice cream! As usual, the fun science and mayhem of the Science is pHun segment led to it getting awarded the #1 most popular part of TYCTWD. Of course, we acknowledge and thank the members of the TYCTWD planning team and the leaders that funded our program!



*By Bob Zeigler
All photos Brazosport ACS*

NEWSLETTER

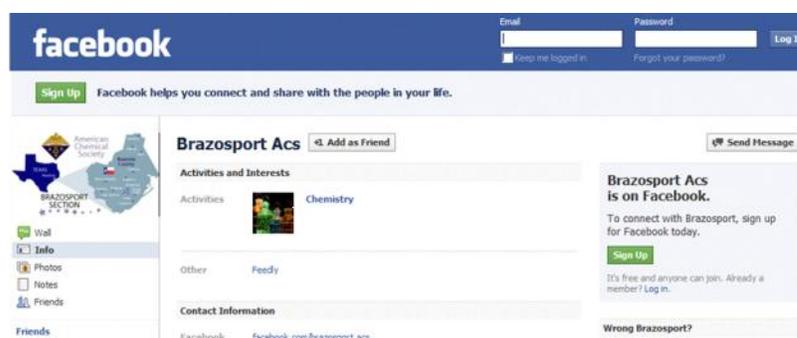


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