



# NEWSLETTER

12  
Chemluminary  
Awards  
[2001-2012]  
for services to  
our community  
Feb 2013

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear ACS Brazosport Section,

I'm excited to be kicking off this year as the Chair for the Brazosport Local Section! I had a great experience as Chair-elect in 2012 and Secretary in 2011. I hope to continue the momentum into 2013. My main goals for 2013 are to focus on networking events in collaborations with other local professional societies, career development events, and maintain our section's favorable reputation.

My first goal is to work on networking events within ACS and with other professional organizations. This will give our members an opportunity to meet a new group of diverse professionals in the area. I am a firm believer in the need to expand one's network with people who share a similar profession, as well as others with varying diverse back grounds. With collaborative networking and social events, I hope to increase event attendance at these activities as well as our sections other events. This spring we will have a networking happy hour with groups such as the local sections of American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the International Society of Automation, New Texas Researchers Organization and the Gulf Coast Latin American Scientist organization to name a few. Look for more details to come!

*Continued on page 2*

## LETTER FROM THE PAST CHAIR

The start of a new year is always a busy time as we reflect on our previous year's activities while planning the year ahead. It's the perfect time to reassess our goals, focus on the activities we are passionate about and come up with new and exciting ways to support our members. By reminding ourselves what we are truly passionate about, we've been able to rebalance our efforts around educational outreach, career development, and industry related events, with some really great success. As we transition our leadership to Alexia Finotello as Chair and Brad Seurer as Chair-Elect, I'm excited to see what this new year brings. I'm confident 2013 will be another amazing year!

*-Chanda Klinker (Past Chair of ACS Brazosport Local Section)*

## 2013 Brazosport Section Officers

The votes are in! Congratulations to our newly elected 2013 Board Members!

**Chair:** Alexia Finotello

**Chair-Elect:** Bradley Seurer

**Past Chair:** Chanda Klinker

**Secretary & Newsletter:** Bea Braun

**Treasurer:** Kaoru Aou

**Director:** George St. George & Wanda Rauscher

**Councilor:** Carolyn Ribes

### Supporting Committees

**Community Outreach:** Bob Zeigler

**Communications:** Chanda Klinker

**Awards:** Eric Klinker

Additionally, the local section members voted to change our by-laws to allow online/email voting for the 2014 officer elections. A special thanks to Nikki Pietragallo and Carolyn Ribes for staying on top of the by-law revisions and making this change happen! Thank you for your years of service to our outgoing board members from 2012: Marv Dettloff, Nicole Pietragallo, and Ling Zhang.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Watch for Our Spring Poster and Video Contests – Our topic this year will be Climate Related and will be targeted at 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. Announcements will be sent out in early March.**

**April: Spring Industrial Networking Happy Hour together with the local chapters of AIChE, ISA, GLASCO and NTRO.**

## Letter from the Chair—continued

My second goal is to begin the development of a Young Chemists division of our local section, more specifically having career development events for younger chemists. While these career development events will be open to all of the sections members, after learning about the National ACS Young Chemists Committee (YCC) at the ACS Leadership Institute, I thought this is an area where our section could develop a small focus. Some event ideas include learning more about LinkedIn, Project Management and Habits of Effective People. If you have any suggestions for career development ideas, feel free to contact our section.

Lastly, my personal challenge is to keep our local section running smoothly and successfully as it has in the past. Our past chairs have done a great job at planning wonderful events and I hope to uphold that reputation. Nationally, our section has an outstanding history of being recognized through ChemLuminary Awards and I want to be sure to continue that tradition. If I am able to work on these three goals, with supportive board members, 2013 will be another fantastic year for the ACS Brazosport Local Section.

*-Alexia Finotello (Chair of ACS Brazosport Local Section)*

## Halloween at the Museum

A 60's hippie (Yolanda Beech), Witch (Terry Zeigler) and a Surgeon (Bob Zeigler) entertained and shared some science at the annual Halloween "Haunted Happenings" Open House Event at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum on October 25. The ACS and other service organizations teamed up to showed 120 children and parents about the science behind magic, by using clock reactions, alcohol explosions, Fun with CO<sub>2</sub> and a consistent crowd pleaser, the disappearing penny. We also let the kids do crafts by making gliders from soda straws and construction paper. As usual, we're invited back next October!

*-Bob Zeigler*



## Marinda Wu Visits Brazosport Local ACS Section

In September, we were extremely fortunate to host Marinda Wu, 2012 ACS President-Elect. Her visit started with a dinner with our local section officers and committee chairs. We were also excited to meet two ACS staff members, Kathy Fleming and Mary Bet Dobson. The following day, Marinda visited her former employer, Dow Chemical, where she met with Vice President of R&D, Ganesh Kailasam and Lead Director for Global Elastomers, Dana Gier. For lunch, she met with the Women's Innovation Network (WIN) and the Asian Diversity Network (ADN) and talked about her career, family and work with the ACS. In the afternoon, we were treated to a tour of the Film Technology Application Center by TS&D Director for Performance Packaging, Scott Collick. Later that evening, our section hosted her at the Brazosport Center for Arts & Sciences for her seminar "How can we all become better Ambassadors for Chemistry?"



From left: Alexia Finotello, Marinda Wu, Chanda Klinker  
Photo: Brazosport ACS

While this event took an extraordinary amount of planning and coordination, it was one of the highlights of the year. We don't often get the chance to host such an influential ACS figure and our team pulled together an amazing visit. We look forward to seeing all the exciting things that Marinda does this year as she takes on the position of ACS President and we wish her all the best in her role.

*-Chanda Klinker*

## 2012 Special Recognition Award (Brazoria County resident)

This award is presented to Brazoria County residents to recognize special achievement in the promotion of and/or contributions to the chemical sciences.



Jennifer Caulkins (left) with Bob Zeigler ;  
Photo: Brazosport ACS

The 2012 Special Recognition Award was presented to **Jennifer Caulkins**, the Executive Director of the Lake Jackson Historical Association, for the continuous promotion of science and her partnership with the ACS and other local organizations to bring the fun of science to children in the local community.

For over 4 years, Jennifer has sponsored, as part of the **annual Museum Halloween Event**, **fun science demonstrations in partnership with the Brazosport Section of the ACS**. Jennifer advertised the event (including the science activities), made facilities available and supplied tables, equipment and help we may need to optimally connect with the children. The spooky environment attracts the children, but once they're in the museum Jennifer agrees with us that they should learn something.

In 2010, Jennifer **expanded the science program by adding July Science Day at the Museum**. This program is free to the public and is now two years old. This program has grown to include programs from the ACS, NTRO and Brazoria County Wildlife rescue, and other groups. At this annual event, the children come to learn about chemistry, engineering, wildlife biology and other topics of science.

Both the Halloween Event and Museum Science Day repeatedly and consistently attract over 100 children and their parents each time. Through her vision and enthusiastic support, Jennifer is bringing fun science to children in our community. I feel that Jennifer (and her staff) should be recognized by our chapter in appreciation for her effective partnership.

Marv Dettloff

## INDUSTRY NETWORKING

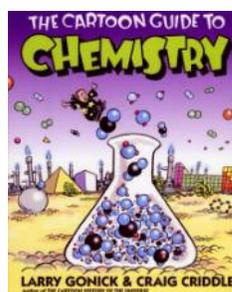
On November 8, 2012, the Brazosport ACS held another industry networking happy hour at the Local in Lake Jackson. Similar to the first event earlier in 2012, local professionals had the opportunity to network across industries in a casual setting. The industry networking series will continue in 2013. Keep your eyes open for announcements.



### Reading corner

## THE CARTOON GUIDE TO CHEMISTRY

by Larry Gonick and Craig Criddle; HarperCollins 2005



If you have ever suspected that "heavy water" is the title of a bootleg Pink Floyd album, believed that surface tension is an anxiety disorder, or imagined that a noble gas is the result of a heavy meal at Buckingham Palace, then you need *The Cartoon Guide to Chemistry* to set you on the road to chemical literacy.

You don't need to be a scientist to grasp these and many other complex ideas, because *The Cartoon Guide to Chemistry* explains them all: the history and basics of chemistry, atomic theory, combustion, solubility, reaction stoichiometry, the mole, entropy, and much more—all explained in simple, clear, and yes, funny illustrations. Chemistry will never be the same!



## 2012 ACS Brazosport Section Annual Banquet

December 11, 2012 – The Local

The ACS Brazosport Section held the Annual Banquet on December 11, 2012 at The Local Restaurant. About 24 people attended and enjoyed delicious food and great conversations. After dinner, the newly elected executive board was introduced; the outgoing of executive board members were recognized followed by the presentation of the local section awards. Joe Barrera received the 2012 Chemical Technician of the Year Award. Jennifer Caulkins was presented with the Special Recognition Award for her outreach work at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.



Joe Barrera receiving Chemical Technician Award from nominator, Devon Rosenfeld and Awards Chair, Marv Detloff



Roxanne Allen "Lighting the Spark"

Moving on from our great past events and successes, the newly elected chair Alexia Finotello gave an outlook of the local section activities for 2013. The seminar by Roxie Allen, "Lighting the Spark" was the final highlight of the evening. A 45 minute presentation provided a fascinating insight into lighting your spark and helping children get more involved in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

-Alexia Finotello, Chanda Klinker  
All photos: ACS Brazosport

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We appreciate your feedback! [BrazosportACS@gmail.com](mailto:BrazosportACS@gmail.com)





## Festival of Lights

There was a new exciting booth this year at the Lake Jackson Festival of Lights! That's right, we brought chemistry to this popular LJ annual event and added a touch of National Chemistry Week (NCW) celebration to the already festive event. We set up our booth to have both hands-on chemistry demos as well as a fun "prize wheel" that the kids could spin after having fun with the demos. The prizes included NCW wrist bands, NCW tattoos, nan-o-moles, science books, pens/pencils and t-shirts. The demos were a huge success due to their interactive nature with color changing milk, scared pepper, a water tornado and the ever popular ping pong gun. The prize wheel was extra incentive to attract kids to our free, educational booth and allowed us to send home fun NCW booklets. We gave wristbands to nearly every child to come to the booth, handing out over 500 during the one-day fair!

The Festival of Lights was a unique opportunity to touch hundreds of kids and adults while participating in this fun community activity. This event was funded through the national ACS Innovative Project Grant (IPG), which allowed us to buy the supplies and equipment necessary to create a successful large-scale outdoor chemistry event. True to the intent of the IPG funding, we plan use these supplies to participate in the Festival of Lights in future years. So if you were not able to come see our booth in 2012, plan ahead to add some chemistry to your Festival of Lights experience in 2013.

-Chanda Klinker  
All photos: Brazosport ACS





## Nationwide



### National Career Resources for Chemists

ACS is expanding services to unemployed members. The [November 5 issue of C&EN](#) featured the “Employment Outlook” highlighted results from the 2012 Comprehensive Salary & Employment Survey of ACS members. While the unemployment rates for chemists (4.2%) is lower than for the general population, the percentage of ACS members that were unemployed for any period in 2011 was 8.2%. Unemployment rates are higher for recent graduates. Many members consider they are underemployed.

Unemployed ACS members are eligible for a special dues waiver so they can retain all membership benefits with no membership fee. Contact [service@acs.org](mailto:service@acs.org) or 800-333-9511 for assistance. ACS provides a wide range of career services, including career counselors. New resources include an on-line discussion form on LinkedIn and the ACS Network. This provides a venue for unemployed members to share resources, concerns, and experiences. A list of national and local job-hunting resources is now available at [www.acs.org/unemployed](http://www.acs.org/unemployed). Information on job boards, clubs, employer information, and entrepreneurial resources is provided. ACS Careers is starting an on-line job club which meets virtually on Tuesday from 2-3pm ET. Web conferencing technology will be used to exchange tips and support. Information on all ACS career services is available at [www.acs.org/unemployed](http://www.acs.org/unemployed).

-Carolyn Ribes

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