



April 2015  
Vol. 100, Issue 2

# Central Texas ACS

Established 1917

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society  
centraltexasacs.sites.acs.org

## Annual Spring Awards Banquet

The Central Texas ACS Local Section honors our 50 and 60 year members, ACS Fellows, Outstanding Seniors, and Chemistry Olympiad finalists.

Join us for an excellent dinner, awards presentations, and a talk by Dr. H. N. Cheng, U.S. Department of Agriculture, who will give an introduction to green chemistry for polymers.

Local Section meeting – Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Social Hour at 6:00pm  
Dinner and presentation begins at 6:30pm

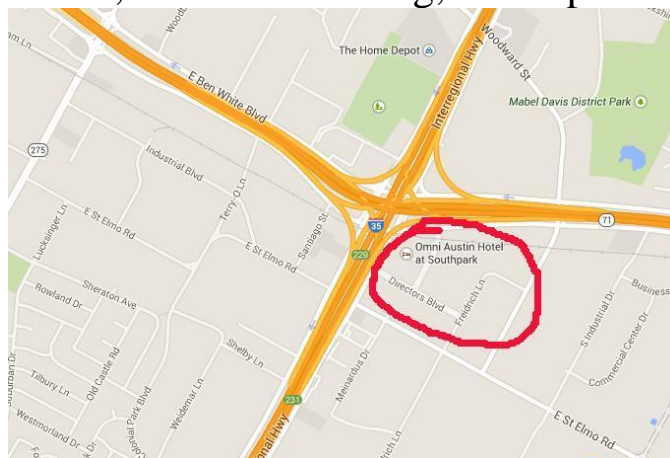
**Omni Hotel Southpark**  
**4149 Governor's Row, Austin, TX 78744**

Dinner is \$30 for non-members, \$20 for members,  
\$15 for students or high school teachers.

RSVP by April 22<sup>th</sup> using any of the methods below:  
[RSVP link](#) will be sent out via email and posted on website

Email Neal Grice at [njgrice.atx@gmail.com](mailto:njgrice.atx@gmail.com)

With full name, number attending, food option and email



## Speak Bio



**H. N. Cheng** is a Research Chemist at Southern Regional Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in New Orleans. He obtained his B.S. from UCLA and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At USDA he is working on several research projects involving product and process development of agricultural materials. Prior to 2009, he was Senior Research Fellow at Hercules Incorporated, where he held various R&D and managerial positions, including new business development, polymer chemistry, analytical chemistry, nutrition, biocatalysis, and pulp and paper technology. He has authored or co-authored 192 papers and 25 patent publications. He has organized 27 symposia at national meetings since 2000 and has edited 11 books. He also serves as an associate editor of the *International Journal of Polymer Analysis & Characterization* and a member of the Editorial Board of *Carbohydrate Polymers*.

At the ACS, he was elected an ACS Fellow (2009) and a POLY Fellow of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (2010). He was the recipient of Tillmans-Skolnick Award for Outstanding Service from the ACS Delaware Section (2006), Delaware Section Award for research excellence (1994), and Distinguished Service Award (2005) and Special Service Award (2015) from ACS Polymer Chemistry Division. In 2015 he serves as Chair of the International Activities Committee, Member-at-Large and Editor of Section Newsletter for the Louisiana Local Section, and Chair of ACS Polymer Chemistry Division Workshop Committee, among many other activities.

## An Introduction to Green Polymer Chemistry

Green Chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green Polymer Chemistry is an extension of green chemistry to polymer science and engineering. Developments in this area have been stimulated by health and environmental concerns, interest in sustainability, desire to decrease the dependence on petroleum, and opportunities to design and produce “green” products and processes. It has become an active and viable field in its own right and continues to attract attention from researchers and manufacturers.

In this talk an introduction will be made of Green Polymer Chemistry. Currently, R&D is being conducted in several areas within this field, including: 1) green catalysis, 2) diverse feedstock base, 3) degradable polymers and waste minimization, 4) recycling of polymer products and catalysts, 5) energy generation or minimization during use, 6) optimal molecular design and activity, 7) benign solvents, and 8) improved syntheses or processes in order to achieve atom economy, reaction efficiency, and reduced toxicity. Advances have been made in many areas, including new uses of biobased feedstock, green reactions, green processing methodologies, and green polymeric products. Examples will be given of how it is currently being used in product design and development and possible new opportunities in the future. The speaker will provide some examples from his own work in this field, illustrating particularly the usefulness of agriculturally based raw materials in polymer synthesis and some techniques found to be useful.

# Central Texas ACS: April 2015

## Councilor's Corner

*The following is a report from the Council Meeting at the 249<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting in Denver Colorado, March 22-26, 2015*

### ***Fall National Elections***

**G. Bryan Balazs** and **Allison A. Campbell** are candidates for 2016 President-Elect. Candidates for **Directors-at-Large** for 2016-2018 terms are: **Willem R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary Jo Ondrechen,** and **Thomas W. Smith.** Read about the candidates on the [2015 ACS National Election Candidates Information Page](#) on the ACS website.

### ***2016 Member Dues***

The Council voted to set the member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of \$162. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

### ***New International Chemical Sciences Chapters***

Council voted to approve petitions to charter the India International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Taiwan International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

### ***Financial Health of the Society***

Despite favorable operating results, the Society's financial position weakened in 2014, with Unrestricted Net Assets declining, due to sizable accounting charges related to the two (closed) postretirement benefit plans. For more information, go to [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org). At the bottom of the page, click 'About ACS' then 'ACS Financial Information'.

### ***American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT)***

More than 1,900 individuals have joined the [American Association of Chemistry Teachers \(AACT\)](#) which launched last year, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers of chemistry. The Dow Chemical Company was announced as the Sole Founding Partner of AACT with a gift of \$1 million.

### ***ACS Policy Statements***

A new draft ACS policy statement on hydraulic fracturing has been developed, which will be considered by the Board for approval. ACS policy statements on energy, climate change and forensic science are now being revised. ACS has more than 20 public policy statements – to read more, go to [ACS Positions on Policy Issues](#).

### ***National Meetings***

**Early Member Registration Fee for 2016 national meetings will be \$415**, per the National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan.

**Free distribution of the hard copy program book will be discontinued in 2016.** Pre-registrants may purchase a copy of the program book for \$10 (pick up on site), and copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. The PDF version of the national meeting program will be prominently displayed on the ACS website for those who would like to print portions for themselves.

### ***Grants and Awards***

16 grants totaling \$4000 will be awarded in 2015 for Bridging the Gap: Teachers of Chemistry K-12 Nano-Grants. More information about all Local Section Activities (LSAC) grants, and those of other committees, is

# Central Texas ACS: April 2015

*Continued from Page 3*

Faculty from PhD granting U.S. institutions will be invited by ACS President Diane Schmidt to give ACS membership as an award to outstanding students in chemistry. Schmidt will match each gift by paying a student's membership from her Presidential funds.

## ***ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs***

The new [2015 ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#) are now published on the ACS website. There are currently 681 colleges and universities offering ACS-approved bachelor's degree programs in chemistry.

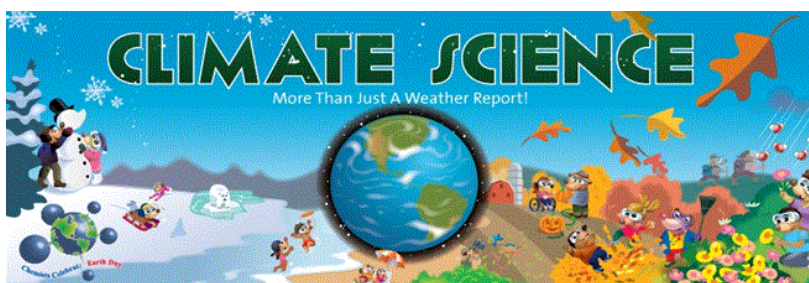
Diane Kneeland and Barry Streusand, Councilors

*Diane Kneeland serves on the ACS Committee for Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA). Her subcommittee within CEPA provides oversight and recommendations about ACS career programs, products and services.*

*Barry Streusand serves on the Committee on Science (COMSCI). His subcommittee within COMSCI writes and reviews public policy statements which are used to promote ACS positions to Congress and other government entities. CEPA and COMSCI are two of approximately 30 volunteer committees that provide advice and service to the ACS (the Society).*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come help Chemists Celebrate Earth Day at Zilker Park on Saturday, April 18



The CCED 2015 theme is "**Climate Science – More Than Just A Weather Report!**", exploring climate science and the role chemistry plays in the environment. Central Texas ACS will celebrate with hands on activities for kids of all ages on Saturday, April 18 from 12 noon to 4 PM at the Zilker Park, Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center, formerly Splash Exhibit.

Come and be part of the fun!

There are 2 shifts for volunteering: 11am-2pm or 2pm-4:30pm. Hands on activities and demonstrations. No training necessary, just enthusiasm, enjoyment of chemistry and of kids.

The location is 2201 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 Please remember that if you volunteer at any of our local chapter events, you are invited to a fall meeting for a free meal and talk. So make sure to sign up!!

[11am-2pm sign up time](#) & [2pm-4:30pm sign up time](#).

Contact Dodie Wells with questions or for more information – [dodiewells4@hotmail.com](mailto:dodiewells4@hotmail.com)

# Central Texas ACS: April 2015

## Important Information Regarding Candidates for the Fall 2015 ACS National Election

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) is announcing the slate of candidates who will appear on the fall 2015 ballot. They are:

### **Candidates for President-Elect, 2016**

G. Bryan Balazs, Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA

Allison A. Campbell, Associate Laboratory Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2016-2018**

Willem R. Leenstra, Associate Professor, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

Ingrid Montes, Professor, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR

Mary Jo Ondrechen, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Thomas W. Smith, Professor, Chemistry & Microsystems Engineering, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

### **Candidates for District I Director, 2016-2018**

Thomas R. Gilbert, Professor, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Laura E. Pence, Professor of Chemistry, University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT

### **Candidates for District V Director, 2016-2018**

John E. Adams, Curators' Teaching Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

Kenneth P. Fivizzani, Retired, Nalco Company, Naperville, IL

**According to ACS Bylaw V, additional candidates may be nominated by petition until July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We will notify you again after the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to confirm the final slate of candidates that will appear on the fall ballot, if there are any changes.**

**American Chemical Society  
Central Texas Section  
P.O. Box 9811  
Austin, TX 78766**

**PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTIN, TX  
PERMIT NO. 1**

**Central Texas ACS: April 2015  
2015 Executive Committee: Officers and Program Directors**

---

Chair, Webmaster & High School Coordinator	Dr. Neal Grice	Retired	Alternate Councilor 1	Malcolm Prouty	SMRC
Chair-elect	Vacant		Alternate Councilor 2	Dr. Denny Wagoner	Retired
Past-Chair	Dr. Sandra Loudwig	Luminex	Younger Chemist Committee Chair & Newsletter Editor	Cotton Starr	University of Texas
Secretary	Margaret Connor	Huntington-Surrey High School	Awards Chair	Vacant	
Councilor 1, Treasurer, & Nominations Chair	Dr. Diane Kneeland	Retired	EHS Chair	Katherine Cross	
Councilor 2, Boy Scout Program, & Membership Chair	Dr. Barry Streusand	Texas State University	National Chemistry Week & Earth Day	Dodie Wells	Retired