



October 2010
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Central Texas ACS

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Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society
www.CentralTexasACS.org

Central Texas ACS Meeting
Tuesday, November 9th, 6:30-8:30 PM (Dinner 7:00, Talk 7:30)

Nontraditional Careers for Chemists: New Formulas for Chemistry Careers

Dr. Lisa M. Balbes
Balbes Consultants

Cannoli Joe's - Fine Italian Restaurant
4715 US290 West
Austin, TX 78745

(on south side of eastbound Hwy 290 West access road just west of Burger Center)

Dinner is \$10 for members/adults, \$5 for students

RSVP to JD Lewis by Nov. 5 by email at acs2010@stedwards.edu
or call (512) 448-8461

Abstract

A chemistry background prepares you for much more than just a laboratory career. The broad science education, analytical thinking, research methods, and other skills learned are of value to a wide variety of types of employers, and essential for a plethora of types of positions. By understanding your own personal values and interests, you can make informed decisions about what career paths to explore, and identify positions that match your needs. This talk will discuss a variety of nontraditional careers for chemists, such as chemical information, patent work, technical writing, education, human resources, sales and marketing, and much more. We will discuss typical tasks, education or training requirements, and personal characteristics that make for a successful career in each field, illustrated with specific examples. Valuable tips and advice about planning career transitions will also be provided.

Dr. Lisa M. Balbes

Dr. Lisa M. Balbes founded Balbes Consultants (formerly Osiris Consultants) in 1992. Balbes Consultants provides scientific writing services, including documentation, grants, proposals and more for over 50 client companies. She was chair of the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society in 2002, receiving an Outstanding Local Section Achievement Award and a Salute to Excellence Award for her work there. She is also very involved in career development for chemists, has been a volunteer career consultant for ACS since 1993, presenter since 2002, and is the author of *Nontraditional Careers for Chemists*, published by Oxford University Press in 2006. Dr. Balbes obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and psychology from Washington University in St Louis. For more information, see www.balbes.com, or contact her at lisa@balbes.com

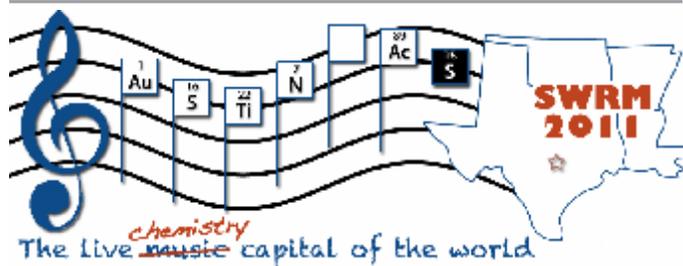
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Great Chemistry in the Crescent City

Come on down to the Big Easy for the joint meeting of the 66th Southwest and 62nd Southeastern ACS Regional Meetings, which will be held in New Orleans, November 30-December 4, 2010, at the Hilton Riverside Hotel.

Symposia will be held in all disciplines of chemistry, and a special symposium and plenary lecture will examine the BP oil spill. Early registration continues until November 15 and hotel reservations are now open. <http://www.swrm.org>.



SWRM 2011: Call for Symposia and Session Chairs

The 2011 Southwest Regional Meeting of the ACS will be held in Austin on November 9-12 2011. For those wishing to organize a specific symposium or willing to serve as a session chair, please contact the Program Chair: Dr. Richard Jones (UT Austin) at rajones@mail.utexas.edu or (512) 471 1706.

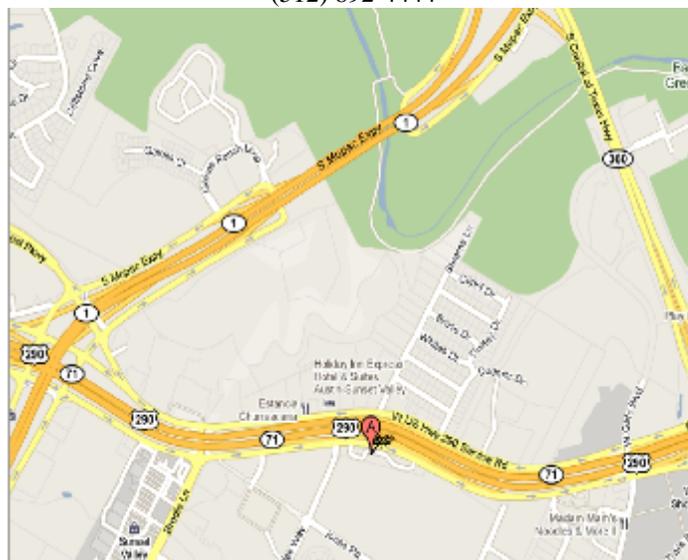
Job Opportunity

Applied Nanotech Seeks Entry Level Chemistry Technician. They are seeking to immediately fill an entry-level technician position within their Technical Inks Division. Interested applicants may email a resume and cover letter to Jacquie Soptick, jsoptick@appliednanotech.net.

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4715 US290 West, Austin, TX 78745

(on south side of eastbound Hwy 290 West access road just west of Burger Center)
(512) 892-4444



National Chemistry Week

The ACS booth at ScoutJam was a roaring success. One estimate was that 1,000 people came to our booth. About forty volunteers worked the activities, helped set up on Friday and Saturday and tear down on Saturday. Many volunteers worked beyond their assigned shifts. We added a whole new dimension with the liquid nitrogen and demonstration shows. Barry Streusand's giant periodic table of scouting on which scouts were invited to use element symbols to say something about scouting attracted considerable interest in itself. Never before have we had the opportunity to play in five gallons of slime. The level of participation from the attendees was exciting. Both kids and adults were full of questions about what was going on.

Thanks to all the volunteers who lent a hand Saturday and Sunday, to those who provided materials for several activities, to the scout personnel who provided support and assistance both at the event and over the last six months, and to HEB for three very large boxes of plastic covers for the super shrinkers. It will be a long time before we celebrate National Chemistry Week in such a grand fashion again. This was a cooperative effort of which the section can be very proud.

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Councilors' Corner

Let's discuss an unpleasant subject this month. While unemployment for ACS members is far below the national average, it is distressingly high. What should you do if you lose your job? Cancel your ACS membership to save money? Bad idea! To start with, if you are registered with ACS as unemployed, your dues become zero and all of your benefits continue.

In addition, ACS offers many opportunities for finding a job and for getting additional training that will make you more employable. It provides free registration at national meetings with all the networking and career services that are available there. Registration is a major but not the only cost of going to a meeting – hotel rates in the cities where the meetings are held are usually high. ACS will urge you to stay at one of the meeting hotels, but you don't have to. Normally, a Google search will turn up alternatives at half the price. They are probably only worth half as much, but, hey, remember you're not working anymore. You get free use of the Career Services at the meeting including working with experts on your CV, mock interviews, and hopefully some real interviews with employers who are looking for people just like you.

Rather than making this too long, let me urge you to look at the ACS webpage especially designed to address this important subject: Go to the Memberships & Networks tab at acs.org, then click on Member Benefits, Special Dues Categories, and Dues Waiver for Unemployed Members. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find a PDF document that describes many other special offers for unemployed members.

-James E. Boggs

I have worked in career services at UT Austin for many years, and I am now the program coordinator for a workforce training grant in an emerging area of employment, called Health Information Technology. I was amazed and gratified to see 54 of our undergraduate students this summer apply themselves with great energy to learning about a subject that most of them had never even heard of 2 months before. Even better, more than 50% are now gainfully employed in the Health IT industry within 8 weeks of finishing the course.

I mention this because there are many opportunities in life that come in disguise, or they aren't immediately recognizable. For example, hiring freezes don't mean that there is no work to do, on the contrary, everyone is very busy trying to get more done with fewer people. Conversations about the challenges an organization is facing and how those challenges could be met sometimes become offers of temporary employment.

The ACS offers many types of training and free career counseling to unemployed members. I highly recommend taking advantage of these wonderful services. The expression "chance favors the prepared mind" is very appropriate to the challenge of finding employment. As the economy slowly begins to recover, many exciting areas of work will begin to emerge. Now is the time to explore, talk to people and take advantage of training opportunities.

Best Wishes,
Diane Kneeland

Central Texas Councilor and Local Section Officer Elections

It's time for local section elections! The current term for our Councilor Jim Boggs expires at the end of this year. Jim has indicated a desire to be considered for another term. If anyone else would like to be considered for this position, please contact the chair (chair@centraltexasacs.org) by November 5.

We will vote on the Treasurer and Chair-Elect positions at the next meeting. Our current Treasurer, Betsy Shelton, is willing to continue serving in this position. We are looking for a candidate for Chair-Elect. If you wish to be considered for either of these positions, please contact the chair (chair@centraltexasacs.org) by November 5.