



## HURON VALLEY ACS SECTION NEWSLETTER



Ruth Ann Armitage, Editor

**October 2013**

### CURRENT OFFICERS:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Chair:</b>               | Dale Bennett (2013)   |
| <b>Chair-elect:</b>         | William Norris (2013)   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>           | Wade Tornquist (2013)   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>           | Kurt Kneen (2013)   |
| <b>Outreach:</b>            | Larry Kolopajlo   |
| <b>Councilors:</b>          | Ellene (Nina) Tratras Contis (2012-2014)<br>Harriet Lindsay (2013-2015) |
| <b>Alternate Councilor:</b> | Gregg Wilmes  |

### ***Coming Election of Officers***

Positions to be filled: Chair-elect (two-year term); Secretary (two-year term), Councilor (two-year term).

Please consider nominating yourself! Submit any names for consideration to the chair of Nominating Committee, Bill Norris at [Norris@nsf.org](mailto:Norris@nsf.org). **Deadline November 1.**



HURON VALLEY SECTION:  
<http://huronvalley.sites.acs.org/>

You are encouraged to submit any items of interest to [Paul Dobrowolski](mailto:Paul.Dobrowolski@huronvalley.sites.acs.org), the Section webmaster.

ACS Huron Valley is also on Twitter (@HV\_ACS), Facebook, and LinkedIn. Get connected to your local section through your favorite networking site!

[www.my.acs.org](http://www.my.acs.org)

Showcases stories and photos submitted by members describing what best defines their ACS membership experience. If your story is selected, you receive a T-shirt.

[www.acs.org/getinvolved](http://www.acs.org/getinvolved)

ACS offers many ways to get involved at the local, regional, and national levels. There are opportunities for everyone, whether you are a student, just starting your career, or a seasoned professional.

[www.ACS.org/ChemistryAmbassadors](http://www.ACS.org/ChemistryAmbassadors)

Visit the Chemistry Ambassadors website for ideas and resources to engage your community with positive messages about chemistry.



Report to the Huron Valley ACS Local Section from Councilor Ellene (Nina) Tratras Contis:

My stay at this meeting was from *Thursday, September 5, 2013 through Friday, September 13, 2013.*

### Council Meeting

I attended the Council Meeting on *Wednesday, September 11, 2013.* Details of the Councilor's meeting can be found in the Councilor's talking points as they are distributed. We heard reports from the ACS officers and from the many committees of the Board and Council. Almost 11,000 attended this meeting, more than predicted for this test meeting site. One special discussion item was on the agenda: What can we, as the Society and as individual citizens, do to help create jobs or demand for chemists? There was lively, challenging and informative discussion. Other business included changing the

name of the Syracuse Local Section to the Central New York Local Section. The Monmouth County Local Section was dissolved. After some debate, the proposed name change for the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry was defeated. A vote to realign the electoral districts was passed. Election results for several open positions were reported.

### International Activities Committee

I am also a member of the International Activities Committee (IAC) and participated at their meetings as well. I chair the regional subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

*September 6* -- The full IAC met in retreat to finalize our activities that would inform our strategic goals for the year. I organized and facilitated this retreat to determine which of the several activities were the most important to recommend to the ACS Office of International Activities (OIA) for funding.

*September 7* -- On Saturday morning, our subcommittees met with our respective members. Highlights included an update on the Malta Conferences (which occur every few years to bring together chemists from 15 different countries in the Middle East in a neutral place to discuss science. This year the conference will again be held in Malta in November 2013. Mort Hoffman reported the update from the Northeastern Section. We heard from Darci Trader, a PhD candidate from Indiana University, who was awarded a travel grant, along with 8 other US students, to attend the EuCheMs congress, held in Prague in 2012. This was her first trip overseas and her experiences were amazing, with connections being made or possible collaborations in the future. We welcomed our newest International Chemical Science Chapter from Romania.

## **ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

### *Election Results*

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Committee on Committees** beginning in 2014: Mitchell R. M. Bruce, Janet L. Bryant, Dee Ann Casteel, Amber S. Hinkle, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., V. Michael Mautino, Jason E. Ritchie, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Russell W. Johnson, and Ralph A. Wheeler. By electronic ballot, the Council elected Janet L. Bryant, Dee Ann Casteel, Amber S. Hinkle, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., and V. Michael Mautino for the 2014-2016 term.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Council Policy Committee** beginning in 2014: Harmon B. Abrahamson, Arindam Bose, Judith H. Cohen, Alan M. Ehrlich, Martha G. Hollomon, Paul J. Smith, Ellen B. Stechel, and Angela K. Wilson. By electronic ballot, the Council elected Harmon B. Abrahamson, Judith H. Cohen, Alan M. Ehrlich, and Angela K. Wilson for the 2014-2016 term.

The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Committee on Nominations and Elections** beginning in 2014: Lisa M. Balbes, Jeannette E. Brown, Martha L. Casey, Dwight W. Chasar, D. Richard Cobb, Catherine E. Costello, Lissa Dulany, Kevin J. Edgar, Paul W. Jagodzinski, and Robert A. Pribush. By electronic ballot, the Council elected Lisa M. Balbes, Jeannette E. Brown, Martha L. Casey, D. Richard Cobb, and Lissa Dulany for the 2014-2016 term.

### *Attendance Report*

As of the morning of September 11, 2013, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 10,840 registrants, including 6,630 regular attendees and 2,584 students.

### *Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors*

The candidates for the fall 2013 ACS national election were announced as follows:

### **Candidates for President-Elect, 2014**

- Dr. G. Bryan Balazs, Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Livermore, CA
- Dr. Charles E. Kolb, Jr., President and CEO, Aerodyne Research Inc., Billerica, MA
- Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt, Section Head R&D, The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2014-2016 (two will be elected)**

- Dr. Susan B. Butts, Independent Consultant, Susan Butts Consulting, Midland, MI
- Dr. Thom H. Dunning, Jr., Director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications and Professor, Distinguished Chair for Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
- Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips, Retired, Waters Corporation, Milford, MA
- Dr. Kathleen M. Schulz, President, Business Results, Inc., Albuquerque, NM

### **Candidates for District II Director, 2014-2016**

- Dr. George M. Bodner, Arthur Kelly Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Education and Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- Dr. Alan A. Hazari, Director of Chemistry Labs and Lecturer, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

### **Candidates for District IV Director, 2014-2016**

- Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
- Dr. Larry K. Krannich, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

### **Realignment of Electoral Districts**

ACS Bylaws require that the six electoral districts – from which six directors are elected to the ACS Board of Directors – be balanced in their total member populations. The Council voted to approve a proposal by the Committee on Nominations and Elections to realign these districts. The realignment meets the specified criteria for redistricting as required by Bylaw V, Section

4a and brings all six districts within permissible population range. This change takes place in 2014 and does not affect the 2013 national ACS elections. Councilors and others may visit the N&E website to look at the actual proposal and its impact.

### **Special Discussion Item**

A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Marinda Wu presented and moderated a discussion on “What can we – as the Society and as individual citizens – do to help create jobs or demand for chemists?” She shared five recommendations from the presidential task force “Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members to Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise” and what they might imply for our efforts to help create jobs: discover and share information about the skills and competencies that a wide range of employers will need; continue to expand resources which help our members to position themselves for successful careers in the global chemistry enterprise; enable entrepreneurs to create and strengthen their startups that hire chemistry professionals; advocate for policies that improve the business climate and promote the creation of chemistry jobs; and work with other stakeholders to understand and influence the supply and demand of chemists and jobs. Following the presentation, numerous Councilors engaged in a discussion of this focused topic on possibilities to encourage jobs creation and offered several suggestions.

### **CERM 2014**

The 2014 Central Regional meeting will be hosted by the Pittsburgh Section, October 1-4, 2014, in beautiful downtown Pittsburgh, PA. Put it on your calendar.



## NEWS OF THE SECTION

**Thank You, Paul!**



**Paul Jones**, former officer in HVLS and co-editor of this newsletter has left the Ann Arbor area to return “home” to New England. If you knew Paul and would like to get in touch with him, his new email address is [paulrjones@gmail.com](mailto:paulrjones@gmail.com). ACS-HV wishes

him the best, and we thank him for all he has contributed to ACS locally and nationally.

### **Project SEED Program Summary**



During the past summer, the Huron Valley Local Section and NSF International in Ann Arbor sponsored three high school students to participate in the ACS Project SEED program. The program is designed to give economically disadvantaged high school students a research experience with the hope that they might consider a chemistry career as they plan for college. The three students worked

in research labs at Eastern Michigan University for eight weeks.

**Vlad Marcu** is a student at Churchill High School in Livonia where his chemistry teacher is Andrew Jones. This summer, he worked in Professor Vijay Mannari’s lab, where they focus on “Green Chemistry” research that involves the preparation of coatings from bio-based resources which can replace petroleum-based feedstock for commercial applications. Specifically, Vlad worked on a project that involved the study of film properties of some coatings as a function of compositional variables and cure conditions. That is, he evaluated films that were cured under different conditions according to their hardness, impact-resistance, solvent-resistance etc., to determine which curing conditions were most effective.

**Cassidy Morton** is a student at Whitmore Lake High School; her chemistry teacher is Wendy Lemons. Her summer was spent in Professor Hedeel Evans’s lab, where their work focuses on understanding how neuronal cells can be protected from undergoing cell death as seen in Alzheimer’s disease (AD) Specifically, Cassidy learned techniques including immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, western blotting, along with bioinformatics that she used to better understand the mechanism by which a particular protein can protect against neuronal cell death.

**Halle Thomas** returned to Eastern Michigan this summer as a second year SEED participant. She graduated from Milan High School this past spring, and is now attending Yale University. Her chemistry teacher at Milan was Josh McCaman. For the past two summers, Halle has worked in on a collaborative project with Professors Maria Milletti and Harriet Lindsay. This year, she used computational chemistry to examine the likelihood of obtaining good stereoselectivity in certain variation of a reaction known as the aza-Cope rearrangement—Mannich cyclization. This reaction produces heterocycles that are useful building blocks for pharmaceuticals. Likewise, she synthesized the required reactants and examined reaction conditions to optimize the yield of this reaction in the laboratory.

For more information about Project SEED, visit the ACS Project SEED website. For more information about Huron Valley’s Project SEED program, contact the program coordinator, Prof. Harriet Lindsay ([hlindsay@emich.edu](mailto:hlindsay@emich.edu)).

### **USGS-ACS-HV Event**

On May 16<sup>th</sup> our local section hosted a series of talks by the USGS, "A USGS Great Lakes Science Center evening of seminars. A series of short talks were given on a variety of topics that included an overview of the USGS-Holly Muir, the USGS Deepwater science program-Dr. David Warner, State Water Withdrawal Assessment Program-Dr. Paul Seelbach, Modeling Coastal Hypoxia for Hypothesis Testing and Forecasting-Dr. Mary Anne Evans and Predicting Phragmites Expansion in the Great Lakes-Wes Bickford. Although the turn out for this event was small a great night of informative talks and conversation was enjoyed by all. A big thanks to all the speakers from the USGS for their participation.



### **ACS-HVS Held Science Café Events at Sidetrack in Ypsilanti**

ACS-HV hosted our first Science Café on May 15<sup>th</sup>! Entitled "From Fruit to Glass" this presentation by Dr. Michael Claus included a discussion of what fruit brandies are, how they are made and why they are being produced more in Michigan than any other state. Our thanks go out to Dr. Claus for presenting this to the group.



Our second Science Café took place on June 19<sup>th</sup>. "The Chemistry of Fireworks" was presented by Dr. Dale Sebes, a chemist and licensed Pyrotechnist, who discussed the different design considerations and chemistry that go into making fireworks. Our thanks to Dr. Sebes for a very informative talk on the topic.

### **COMING EVENTS**

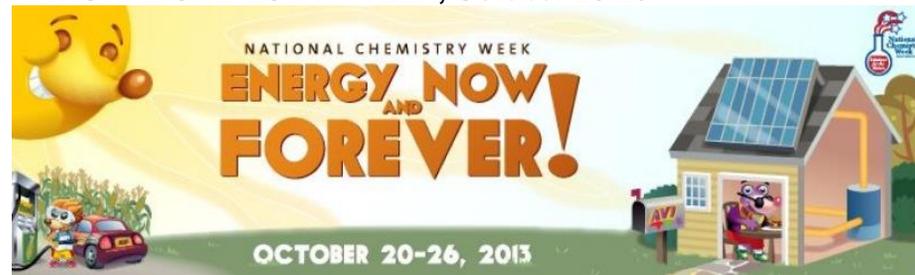
#### **SCIENCE CAFÉ AT THE CORNER BREWERY!**

The Huron Valley ACS presents a new informal science lecture series with the next lecture entitled "The Chemistry of Beer and Our Senses." It will



happen on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Corner Brewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti. A social hour at 6:00 PM will kick off the evening and the lecture will begin at 7:00 PM. Hope you can enjoy some chemistry of beer with us!

### **NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK, October 20-26**



### **Science Fair Judges Needed!**

We are looking for about 10 science fair project judges for Keystone Academy's 2nd to 5th grade students. The date of the judging will be **Tuesday, December 10th** at the Keystone Academy located at 47925 Bemis Rd., Belleville, MI 48111. Contact Paul Dobrowolski (pdobrowolski@caymanchem.com) if interested. Respond early since we turned people away last year!



**ACS**  
Chemistry for Life<sup>®</sup>