

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello All,

The weather is changing, signaling that cozy time of year... as well as the end of an academic semester. Wishing the best of luck to students taking exams soon, and the teachers and professors grading them!



As of November, our local Minnesota ACS Section has a new set of officers starting in 2025. Thank you to all who voted in this past election, and welcome to some new faces joining our executive team:

- Andy Tangen, Chair Elect 2025
- Urvashi Sandhir, Women Chemist Committee Chair.

Thank you to Sarah Dimick-Gray for becoming our interim Chair-Elect and congratulations on becoming next year's Chair. Please see the full list of new appointments below.

Lastly, to close out the year, join us for our holiday party on Friday, December 13th at Urban Growler. All ages are welcome! Please RSVP by December 10th (details below).

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Catherine Serum
Chair 2024

ACS MN Local Section News

Welcome to New Local Section Members!

Elections for Executive Committee positions were held in November. We would like to extend a generous welcome to all our newly elected members:

- Interim Chair: **Sarah Dimick Gray**, Ph.D., Metro State University
- Chair Elect: **Andy Tangen**, Ph.D., Sherwin Williams
- Treasurer: **Arianna Kooyman**, H.B. Fuller
- Councilor: **Nicholas Schlotter**, Ph.D., Hamline University

We are so excited to work with you and see the amazing contributions you will make to the MN ACS Local Section!

Thank you to all who ran for one of the committee positions and to all who voted!

MN ACS Holiday Social

Time & Location

Dec 13, 2024, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St, St Paul, MN 55114, USA

About the Event

MN ACS Holiday Social

Join us for dinner and socializing as we celebrate the holidays and the end of 2024! We will have cookie decorating, games with door prizes, and crafts for the kids. Loved ones are welcome to attend!

When: Friday, December 13th, 5:30-8:30

Where: Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott St., St. Paul, MN 55114

Cost: \$15 for dinner reservation; \$5 for college students; children are free

Dinner will be a vegetarian Cavatappi Alfredo (cavatappi noodles tossed in house alfredo sauce served with salad and asparagus)

Register by December 10th: <https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/event-info/mn-acsholiday-social>



Save the Date!

The MNACS Senior Chemists will hold their annual Holiday gathering on Tuesday, December 10th. We will meet at the Green Mill on Grand and Hamline Avenues in St. Paul at 11:30 am. (We have met there several times in the past).

We hope you will be able to join us for the festivities — lunch and a raffle of Holiday gifts.

More details will follow in early December

Lynn (lghartshorn@gmail) and Ken (lathamke@mac.com)



November A Busy Month For Mn ACS Education

By Chuck Wheeler Handlon, MN ACS Education Chair,
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There are two primary goals for the Mn ACS Education Committee. One is to provide support for STEM teachers, especially middle and high school chemistry teachers. Another is to promote STEM teaching as a potential career choice for students. There is a serious shortage of STEM teachers and groups on the state and national levels. We are recognizing this and focusing resources to address it.

I found myself putting many miles on my car in pursuit of these two goals. On November 1st & 2nd, I drove to St. Cloud to attend the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA) 2024 Minnesota Conference On Science Education (MNCOSE). ACS education committee funds were used to help the University of Minnesota Joint Safety Team (JST) exhibit information about the 2025 JST High School Chemical Safety Workshop. This two-day workshop is held in early August and assists middle and high school chemistry teachers in understanding chemical safety. Participants learn about correct PPE, correct storage and handling of chemicals, safe waste disposal, improving chemical demonstrations, and "Green Chemistry" which reduces chemical waste. Next year will be the fourth workshop. In addition to the exhibitor table, two members of the JST did a presentation as well.

I also attended a presentation on recruiting STEM teachers. A nonprofit called "Elevate Teaching" has developed a set of materials which promote teaching as a career and highlight positive aspects of the profession. Although the focus is on teaching in general, the materials are marketed in a very positive way emphasizing six characteristics: "Teaching is Creative", "Teaching is Teamwork", "Teaching is Legacy", "Teaching is Community Building" and "Teaching is Evolving". I am using the materials in my career and STEM presentations. They provide a glossy, marketing method changing the narrative about teaching to make it more positive.

On Tuesday, November 12, I set up an exhibitor table with these materials and some fun items and demonstrations for the Rochester Chamber of Commerce "STEAM Summit". A colleague and newly retired Biology teacher accompanied me with her African Gray parrot, "Ticket." During the day about 2500 middle and high school students came through the Rochester Community and Technical College Field House to view close to 100 exhibits on various careers. It was a whirlwind but fun. Hopefully there were some impressions made on the students. One favorite was the "snack" I provided, "Mexican Spice Larvettes." Which fascinated students and elicited some "Ewwws...."

Then on Thursday, November 14 I again exhibited at the Mn ACS career fair held at Metro State. Sarah set my table on some prime real estate in the middle of the other exhibitors. This allowed me to get the attention of most of the students coming through. I had some very engaging conversations and feel I was able to explain the process for becoming a STEM teacher once a student has a four-year STEM degree. The response was very positive and I gave out all my flyers. I left the event feeling more hopeful about the future of science education.

Next year my plan is to continue these events and to also reach out directly to University and College departments and schools of education to collaborate in the promotion of STEM education and STEM teaching.

Chemistry Career Fair Fosters Connections Across the Twin Cities

The 14th annual Chemistry Career and Job Fair was held on November 14th in Metro State's Carter Science Education Center's Atrium. Twelve vendors and over 90 students and job seekers made for a vibrant, bustling scene on the Atrium floor. Groups from around the Twin Cities and western Wisconsin learned about open and upcoming positions in leading chemistry companies. This event was sponsored by the MN American Chemical Society Local Section and organized by the Committee on Industrial Relations in joint partnership with Metro State University. We look forward to an even bigger event next year!

Volunteer opportunities



Chemists-in-the-Library

A full list of the remaining events planned for 2024 can be found below. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please get in touch with Phil Buhlmann (buhlmann@umn.edu); he would be grateful to hear from you. No preparation before events is required, and no commitment has to be made; volunteers can sign up for one event at a time.



Chemists-in-the-Library Events 2024

7 Dec, 1:30 PM: St. Louis Park Library



ACS National News

ACS Speaker Directory - Share Your Expertise!

The ACS Speaker Directory is a brand-new resource - free for all ACS members to join - designed to connect experts ****like you**** with exciting speaking opportunities!

Reasons to Join

- Elevate your profile within your local section by becoming a recognized leader in your field
- Utilize your talents to inspire and educate others in the world of chemistry
- Join a network of over 1,200 speakers who are experts in their fields

Share your passion, enhance the visibility of your work, and expand your professional network - apply to be a part of the **ACS Speaker Directory today!**

<https://www.acs.org/officer-toolkit/engage-your-members/speaker-directory.html>



Careers in the Chemical Sciences - New Profiles

Careers & the Chemical Sciences helps students and early career professionals explore over 40 sub-fields of chemistry and discover the wide range of career paths available within the chemical enterprise.

We encourage you to read our latest profiles:

- **Kailey Wyman** - Research Brewing Apprentice at Mark Anthony Brewing
- **Daniel Fonseca** - Lead Technical Service and Development Specialist at The Dow Chemical Company
- **Keon Reid** - Director of Product Commercialization, Strategic Partnerships, and Initiatives at Fiserv, Inc.

<https://www.acs.org/careers/chemical-sciences/profiles.html>



Nominations for Heroes of Chemistry are now open!

Innovation paired with commercial success is worth recognizing. The Heroes of Chemistry Award is one of ACS's highest industry honors, recognizing companies that have developed successfully commercialized products that have had an impact on the welfare and progress of humanity. 2025 nominations are now being accepted through **February 15, 2025**.

Any private or publicly owned for-profit company may nominate a team of chemists or allied scientists. Information on team eligibility is found on the **HOC page**. The company nominating the technology must be the current owner of the technology. Celebrate your company's hard work and success in innovation – **nominate today!**

[https://www.acs.org/funding/awards/heroes-of-chemistry.html#:~:text=product\(s\).-Deadline,2024%20until%20February%2015%2C%202025](https://www.acs.org/funding/awards/heroes-of-chemistry.html#:~:text=product(s).-Deadline,2024%20until%20February%2015%2C%202025)

Facing hardship? ACS is here to help.

Have you or your Members been negatively affected by unforeseen events and are dealing with extenuating circumstances? Please remind your constituents of the **Proactive Membership Assistance Program** from ACS. Please visit **PMAP** to learn about the resources available to Members and contact Membership Services at service@acs.org or by phone at 1-800-333-9511 to discuss options.

<https://www.acs.org/membership/proactive-membership-assistance-program.html>



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