
THE OCTAGON

Lehigh Valley ACS April Section Meeting

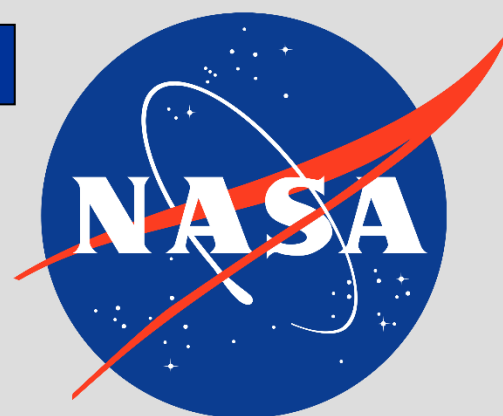
→ ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE POSTER SESSION!

Thursday, April 18th, 4:30-9:00pm

DeSales University, University Center
2755 Station Ave, Center Valley, PA 18034



Chemistry at NASA



SPEAKER: Dr. Shon Neal

Bioregenerative Life Support Systems (BLSS)

Kennedy Space Center Expedition Research and Technology Program

M.Sci., and D.Sci., Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, Florida Institute of Technology

Dr. Neal's current research focuses on the practical development of Bioregenerative Life Support Systems (BLSS) for extended space missions, addressing challenges where traditional resupply methods fall short.



DESALES UNIVERSITY

Social Hour Menu: Cheese and Fruit Display, Crisp Crudities Platter with soda and water
Dinner Menu: Pasta Buffet Dinner with vegetarian option and dessert

4:30-6 pm social/poster session; 6-7 pm dinner; 7-9 pm awards/talk
All events in University Center (#15 on [Campus Map](#))
Parking Free in the University Center lot.

Social Hour/Dinner: \$25/\$15 students & retirees

→ **REGISTER** to present a poster or just attend **by April 8th**

[Directions](#) to DeSales University

Share event on your SM: <https://www.facebook.com/events/456997190083471/?ref=newsfeed>

POST [Flyer](#) everywhere!

CONTACT: Sara Hayik, sara.hayik@desales.edu

LVACS Events Calendar

April 2024

Section Meeting and Undergraduate Poster Session

Thursday, April 18th, 4:30-9:00pm

[DeSales University](#), 2755 Station Ave, Center Valley, PA 18034

All Events in DeSales University Center

Speaker: **Dr. Shon Neal**, NASA

Event Details and Registration by April 8th [HERE](#)

Please post [flyer!](#)

CONTACT: Sara Hayik, Sara.Hayik@desales.edu



Night of STEAM at Pocono Mt. West High School

Monday, April 22nd (Earth Day!), 5-8 pm

[Pocono Mt. West High School](#)

181 Panther Ln, Pocono Summit, PA 18346

Google Maps [Directions](#)

CONTACT: Steve Boyer, sboyer11@esu.edu



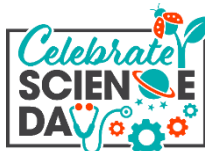
Celebrate Science Day (& CCEW!) in W. Reading

Sunday, April 28th, 1-5 pm

[Drexel College of Medicine](#), W. Reading Campus

50 Innovation Way, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Google Maps [Directions](#)



CONTACT: Philip Elias, philipjelijias@gmail.com

Southern Lehigh MS STEAM Expo

Monday, April 29th, 6-8 pm

[Southern Lehigh Middle School](#)

3715 Preston Lane, Center Valley, PA 18034

Google Maps [Directions](#)



CONTACT: Philip Elias, philipjelijias@gmail.com

Stay tuned to www.lvacs.org for all the latest!

CONTACT: Nigel Sanders, LVACS secretary, newsletter editor and webmaster, nigel53.sanders@gmail.com

Also In This Issue...

3. April 18th Section Meeting and Undergraduate Poster Session: **Last Call for Posters by April 8th!**

4-5. March 27th Section Meeting Report: Dorothy Phillips shares career wisdom with students.

6. It's time for local school STEAM days: Volunteers Needed!

7. CCEW 2024 moves into high gear: Celebrate Science Day in West Reading with LVACS and the Reading Science Center!

8. CCEW Poetry Contest flyer.

9. MARM 2024 registration and Chemagination Programs.

10. Reports on RBSEF and LVSF Science Fairs.

11. Career Page: Is Grad School Right for Me? April 4th.

12. Women Chemists Committee Page: Generating Change through WCC.

13. Senior Chemists Page: Tips to avoid becoming a cybercrime victim.

14. 2024 Executive Committee.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THESE STEM/STEAM EVENTS: DEMONSTRATE THE EXCITEMENT AND VALUE OF CHEMISTRY FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

April 18th Meeting: Poster/Registration Deadline Monday April 8th!

Undergraduate Research Poster Session

Sponsored by: The Lehigh Valley Section of The American Chemical Society

Thursday, April 18, 2024

DeSales University Center Trexler Room 4:30-6:00 PM

Preceding the April meeting of the Lehigh Valley Section of the ACS

Poster Session (4:30-6) | Dinner (6-7) | Meeting/Awards/NASA Presentation (7-9)

Who may participate?

Undergraduates attending a college or university within the Lehigh Valley section of the ACS. Research may have been done at the student's home institution with a chemistry or chemical engineering faculty member, during a summer research experience elsewhere, or as a summary of the work done by an ACS Student affiliate club.

To participate

Students wishing to present their work must submit an abstract **themselves** at <https://forms.gle/DYx52XHDkXPjTNR56> by **Monday, April 8, 2024**. Please email sara.hayik@desales.edu with any questions. Early submission is encouraged.

Abstract requirements (filled out in Google Forms at | <https://forms.gle/DYx52XHDkXPjTNR56>

Title (in sentence case)

Authors names and institutions

Abstract text (maximum of 150 words)

SPEAKER: Dr. Shon Neal, Kennedy Space Center

Dr. Neal's current research focuses on the practical development of Bioregenerative Life Support Systems (BLSS) for extended space missions, addressing challenges where traditional resupply methods fall short.



Other requirements and information

- **ALL** students must register by April 8, 2024 via <https://forms.gle/DYx52XHDkXPjTNR56> but only one per poster need submit an abstract.
- The poster session is held before the dinner meeting (\$25 for full members, \$15 for students, retired, and unemployed guests) and our annual student awards night.
- Poster presenters will be provided with pins, poster boards, and easels for displaying the posters.
- DeSales University encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation, have any questions regarding physical accessibility or would like more information, contact Sara Hayik, sara.hayik@desales.edu



March 2024 Section Meeting: Special Guest!

2024 ACS President-elect Dorothy Phillips, PhD. "Crossing Roads: Risk and Opportunities"

About 40 LVACS members went to Muhlenberg College for the March 27th Section Meeting with a very special guest speaker: the 2024 ACS President-elect Dorothy Phillips, PhD. Co-organizers for the meeting were Muhlenberg's WiSTEM and Chemistry & Biochemistry Clubs. Dorothy's talk, "Crossing Roads: Risk and Opportunities," reviewed the challenges she faced during her career progress and how she took risks in order to gain opportunities that might never have otherwise appeared. A good summary of her experiences may be viewed [here](#). Some of the things gleaned from Dorothy's presentation are bias is something that may be brought to you by others but that you own and control your response to it; how collaboration and the personal touch are always the best approaches and, finally, don't forget to stop and THINK about a question before you answer it. Dr. Phillips gave also gave the group an idea of what she may emphasize when she ascends to the ACS Presidency next year, including [ACS Strategic Plan](#) Goal 3: Support Excellence in Education and Goal 5: Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry. Enjoy the [slideshow](#) and many thanks to Sherri Young, the student clubs and their advisors for bringing Dr. Phillips to our Lehigh Valley Local Section Meeting!



Hosted by:
Muhlenberg College WiSTEM
& chemistry and biochemistry
clubs



ACS
Chemistry for Life®



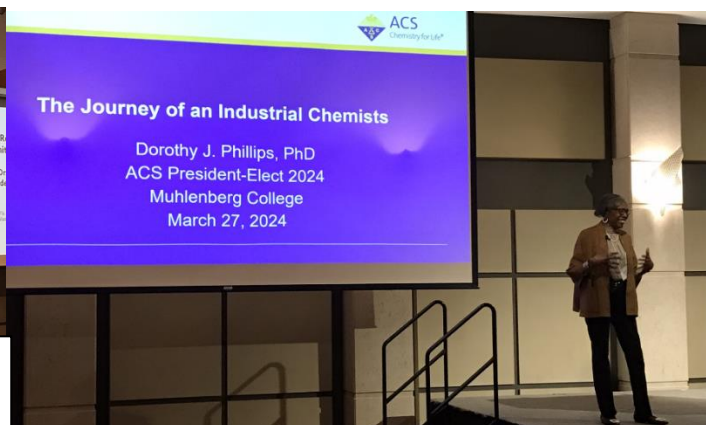
LVACS students enjoying a delicious carrot cake dessert



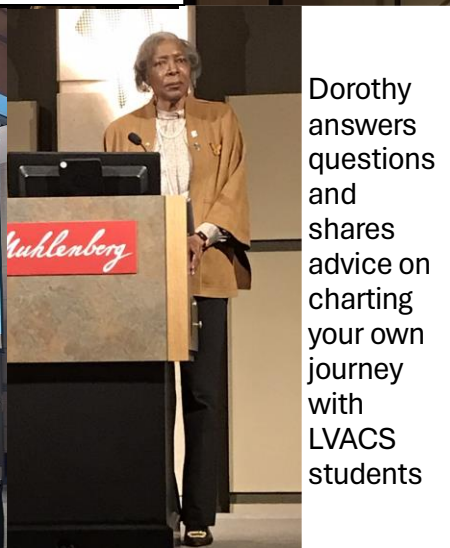
Meeting Organizers with Dr. Phillips



March 2024 Section Meeting: Special Guest! 2024 ACS President-elect Dorothy Phillips, PhD. "Crossing Roads: Risk and Opportunities"



LVACS Chair Philip Elias and Muhlenberg Professor Sherri Young introduce our guest speaker.



Dorothy answers questions and shares advice on charting your own journey with LVACS students



"I truly enjoyed my visit to Muhlenberg. The time spent with the students was energizing including their questions, sharing and discussions. I appreciate your inviting me to speak and including the ACS Lehigh Valley local section and students from other colleges to join us." Thank you, Dorothy, for giving us the benefit of your experiences! *Dr. Dorothy Phillips*

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THESE STEM/STEAM
EVENTS: DEMONSTRATE THE EXCITEMENT AND VALUE OF
CHEMISTRY FOR OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY!**

Night of STEAM at Pocono Mt. West High School

Monday, April 22nd (Earth Day!), 5-8 pm

[Pocono Mt. West High School](#)

181 Panther Ln, Pocono Summit, PA 18346

Google Maps [Directions](#)

CONTACT: Steve Boyer, sboyer11@esu.edu



Last year we participated in **Pocono Mt West's first Night of Science** for all their elementary schools. They'd love to have us back. This year it is going to be a **Night of STEAM for all of their K-12 students** in the district and their families on **Monday, April 22nd in honor of Earth Day from 5-8 pm** at the Pocono Mountain West High School. We'll do battery builds and other cool demos.

Celebrate Science Day (& CCEW!) in W. Reading

Sunday, April 28th, 1-5 pm

[Drexel College of Medicine](#), West Reading Campus

50 Innovation Way, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Google Maps [Directions](#)



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
 College of
 Medicine



CONTACT: Philip Elias, philipjelijias@gmail.com



The **Reading Science Center** is planning its first outdoor "**Celebrate Science Day**" on **Sunday, April 28th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** This will take place on the campus of **Drexel University College of Medicine, West Reading, PA.** They anticipate about 400 families will attend. It will be a mix of STEM-related demonstrations, including experiments from the Reading Science Center, resources and lessons from the Drexel Med faculty and students, an aquaponics van, therapy dogs, inflatable firehouse, concessions, music, etc., etc.! We'll focus on this year's Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) battery-related demos.

Southern Lehigh MS STEAM Expo

Monday, April 29th, 6-8 pm

[Southern Lehigh Middle School](#)

3715 Preston Lane, Center Valley, PA 18034

Google Maps [Directions](#)



SLMS has invited us to be part of their **Second Annual SLSD STEAM Expo** scheduled for **Monday 4/29/24 from 6-8 pm** at Southern Lehigh Middle School. Like last year, we'll have a table and spot on their STEAM Passport, which families will use to navigate the building and explore STEAM opportunities. We're planning take-away and hands-on interactive experiences to engage students and families. We had some fantastic exhibits last year and are so excited to participate again!

Check out the [linked flyer](#) for more information.



CONTACT: Philip Elias, philipjelijias@gmail.com



You're Invited to Celebrate Science Day!

Get ready for a day of excitement and exploration as Reading Science Center invites you to the inaugural "Celebrate Science Day"! Mark your calendar for this upcoming community event where LVACS volunteers will help kids get a charge out of cool chemistry demonstrations throughout the afternoon. **This is a VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY you won't want to miss!**

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.

Location: Outdoors on the campus of Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health, West Reading, PA

Stay tuned for more details and updates as we approach the date. We can't wait to see you there!

<https://www.readingsciencecenter.org/celebratescienceday2024/>

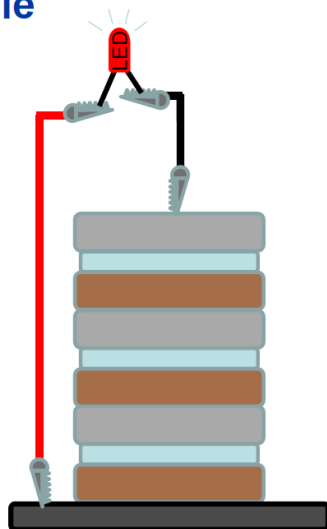
https://www.facebook.com/ReadingScienceCenter/?blm_aid=374282

***LVACS CONTACT: Philip Elias, philipjelias@gmail.com

LVACS will show how Chemists Celebrate Earth Week!

Demo- Build a voltaic pile

Cathode: copper- penny, copper washer
Anode: zinc- zinc/galvanized washer
Electrolyte: vinegar, lemon juice, salt water



GET A
CHARGE
OUT OF CHEMISTRY



April 21-27, 2024 | #CCEW

www.acs.org/ccew



BUST A RHYME? MAKE IT ELECTRIC AND WIN A PRIZE!!



2024 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest Get a Charge Out of Chemistry

The Lehigh Valley Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Contest Deadline: Saturday, April 27th, 2024, at 11:59 PM

Prizes: All entrants will be recognized in the Lehigh Valley Newsletter, the Octagon and on the section website, lvacs.org. First place in each age category will receive a special award!

Contact: email submissions to NCW Coordinator Philip Elias: philipjelas@gmail.com

Winners of the Lehigh Valley Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

LVACS CCEW Illustrated Poetry Contest Entry [Form](#)

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCEW theme, "Get a Charge Out of Chemistry." Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE

Possible topics related to the battery theme include:

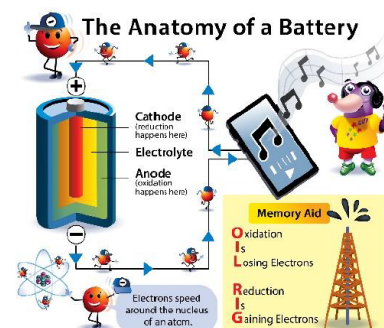
- Alkaline batteries
- Anode
- Atoms
- Cathode
- Disposable batteries
- Electrons
- Rechargeable batteries
- Renewable energy

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, inspiring about yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

Contest rules:

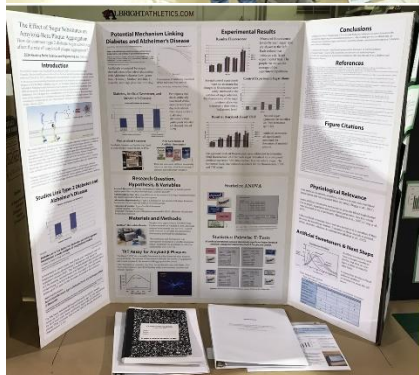
- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the CCEW theme, word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Poems may be submitted by hand on an unlined sheet of paper not larger than 11" by 14" or scanned and sent via email. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and drawing app on a computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- The text of the poem should be easy-to-read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted; all entries must include an entry form.
- If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form (No AI).
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' first name and last initial, along with the name of the ACS Local Section, on the ACS web pages and in the magazine, Chemical & Engineering News



Reading-Berks Science & Engineering Fair

72nd Annual Competition Report

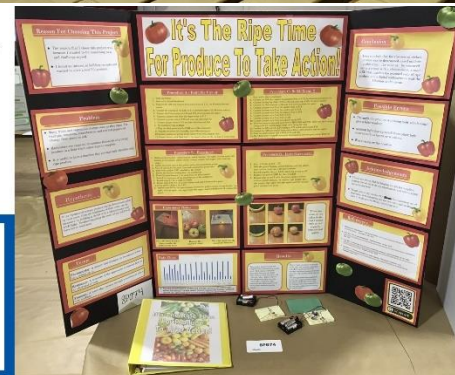
The 72nd annual Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair (RBSEF) put on an amazing display of grades 6-12 STEM talent March 12-14 at Bollman Gymnasium on the Albright College campus. LVACS was well-represented in the judging panels and we once again presented [special awards](#) to the best junior chemist (grades 6-8) and to the best senior chemist (grades 9-12). This year's junior winner was (for the second year in a row!) [Morgan Dieter of Muhlenberg Jr HS, Grade 8](#), for her project "[It's the Ripe Time for Produce to Take Action](#)," the design and use of an LED-based color-scanning system for ripeness of produce. Senior winner this year was Paige Hinkle of Wilson HS, grade 11, (last year's Grand Champion and this year's Champion) with her project "[How Sugar Substitutes Affect Amyloid-Beta Plaque Aggregation](#)," ([paper](#)) ([quad chart](#)) done as internship research at Albright. Interestingly, last year's LVACS top senior chemist did a project in Medicine and Health this year and received the RBSEF Grand Champion crown: Sindura Sridhar of Wilson High School. Visit this link to [Relive](#) the event!



Senior LVACS
 Award-Winning Poster &
 Chemistry Division 1st Place
 Paige Hinkle
 Wilson HS



Junior LVACS
 Award-Winning Poster
 Morgan Dieter
 Muhlenberg Jr HS



Lehigh Valley Science Fair

Lehigh University's Rauch Fieldhouse was again the venue for the **Lehigh Valley Science Fair (LVSF)**, March 15-16. LVACS presented 10 winners in the Chemistry and Biochemistry areas with prizes: 2 for 10-12, 4 for 8-9 and 4 for 6-7. The full list of 2024 winners may be viewed [here](#). The event was covered by [local news media](#). The Lehigh Valley Science and Engineering Research Fair started in 1991. It is open to all sixth through twelfth graders in both Northampton County and Lehigh County. Lehigh University sponsors and hosts the fair each year in March. LVSF is a feeder fair of Delaware Valley Science Fair. Top winners at LVSF may have a chance to participate at Del Val. Fourteen winners from Del Val are promoted to The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.



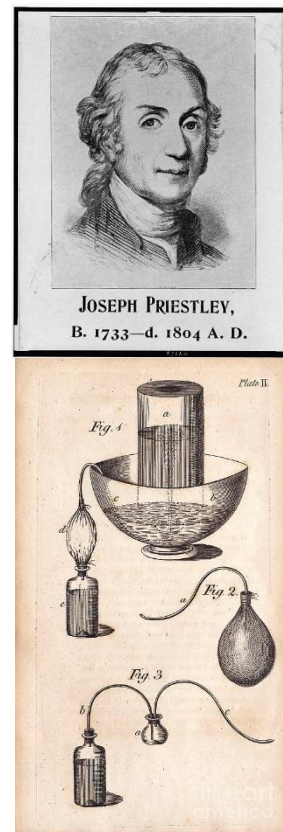


Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting June 5 - 8 | State College, PA

Be sure to attend the **2024 Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM)**. The theme, **Celebrating Discovery**, will be at the core of programming for the event. The Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society welcomes you to beautiful Happy Valley, home of the Penn State Nittany Lions, for the 52nd MARM from June 5 - 8!

As scientists, discovery is at the forefront of everything we do. We build upon the discoveries of other scientists, make new discoveries ourselves, and publish those discoveries to complete the cycle. In recognition of the quarter-millennial anniversary of one of the most important discoveries of our time, the meeting's theme is "Celebrating Discovery." Through this theme, we will honor and celebrate the groundbreaking work of Joseph Priestley on the discovery of oxygen in 1774, including a screening of Roald Hoffman's play, *Oxygen*, with the author in attendance. We hope that MARM 2024 inspires you to make brand new discoveries and foster professional connections with scientists from all over the Mid-Atlantic!

Visit the website to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia.
REGISTER TODAY!



LVACS Chemagination Teams **Submission deadline April 7th 2024!**

The Lehigh Valley American Chemical Society (LVACS) is holding a Chemagination Competition. Chemagination is a great learning experience for students. In addition to increasing their knowledge of science and chemistry, they can improve their creative, teamwork and public speaking skills. Such skills will serve them well in their future careers regardless of field.

CONTEST OVERVIEW

For this event, high school students are asked to imagine that they are living 25 years in the future and have been invited to write an article for ChemMatters, a magazine for high school students that focuses on the role of chemistry in everyday life. The subject of the article is: *"Describe a recent breakthrough or innovation in chemistry (and/or its applications) that has improved the quality of people's lives today."* To view a sample ChemMatters magazine visit [acs.org](http://www.acs.org), and look under Education: <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html>.

→→→ **ENTER YOUR CHEMAGINATION ARTICLE TODAY!**
 John Freeman jcf2@rcn.com

LEHIGH VALLEY ACS WOMEN CHEMISTS COMMITTEE (WCC) PAGE

Generating change through WCC

LORENA TRIBE, CHAIR, ACS WOMEN CHEMISTS COMMITTEE | LVACS member Dr. Lorena Tribe is Professor of Chemistry at Penn State / Berks

The mission of the American Chemical Society Women Chemists Committee (WCC) is “engagement, advancement, and advocacy for women.” Our vision is “equal representation and influence in the chemistry enterprise.” A robust portfolio of initiatives highlights the progress made in these directions since ACS drew up the charter for the original Women’s Service Committee in 1927.

To reflect the three goals outlined in our strategic plan to “engage and empower, recognize and award, and advocate and promote awareness,” WCC provides networking opportunities, manages award programs, and develops symposia for women in chemistry and related professions. Years of planning and organizing with teams comprising committee members—most recently led by past chair Amy Baliya—have developed WCC into a transformative powerhouse that is supported by the dedication of interns, volunteers, sponsors, and staff members.

Kicking off 2024, members of student chapters and local sections attended the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry’s Global Women’s Breakfast on Feb. 27. A new iteration of the far-reaching WCC webinar “The Art of Self-Reinvention: How to Future Proof Yourself,” marked the start of Women’s History Month. At ACS Spring 2024, a record number of attendees signed up for the Women in the Chemical Enterprise Networking Breakfast. This signature WCC event provides a space for making connections while starting the day breaking bread with colleagues and hearing the stories of successful women. Other regularly held events at ACS spring and fall meetings bring members together around the common theme of nourishing the body and the spirit, such as the WCC Luncheon and the Women Chemists of Color “Sweet Treats” networking event, which featured the ACS 2024 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal winner and the 2020 recipient of ACS Grady-Stack

Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public. The WCC open meeting Just Cocktails offers an enjoyable evening of conversation and live music, reinvigorating the midpoint of the conference. ACS leaders graciously attend these events at every meeting, enhancing the networking experience for attendees and modeling inclusive practices. WCC also attends events at



Global problems require solutions that exceed the capacity of any individual group.

regional meetings and engages in local section activities.

WCC prioritizes recognizing all women chemists—including cisgender women and trans women—as well as nonbinary chemists comfortable in women-centered spaces. We manage award programs with a focus on diversity and encourage a wide range of applicants, from undergraduate students to established professionals from around the globe. This spring, nine awardees were selected for the WCC Rising Star Award, which recognizes exceptional early- to midcareer women chemists.

New in 2024: WCC announced its first cohort of WCC Pfizer Emergent Leader Award recipients, recognizing eight individuals who presented their research at ACS Spring 2024. Individuals include women who are in their second year or above in graduate studies or undertaking postdoctoral research in organic chemistry, synthetic methodology, total synthesis, medicinal chemistry, computational chemistry, and chemical biology.

WCC and Eli Lilly and Company sponsor a program to provide funding for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral female chemists to travel to the ACS spring and fall meetings to present their research. For ACS Spring 2024, 10 awardees were selected. The Merck Research Award recognizes 8 individuals in their third or fourth year of graduate school who will present their

research during ACS Fall 2024. Focused exclusively on undergraduates, the WCC Overcoming Challenges Award recognizes a female undergraduate for her efforts in overcoming hardship to achieve success in chemistry, and the Priscilla Carney Jones Scholarship provides scholarships for female undergraduate majors in chemistry or related disciplines who are beginning their junior or senior years of study.

Working on advocacy and awareness, WCC proactively identifies and works to dismantle barriers to equity and success. For ACS Fall 2024, the “WCC Celebrates Chemistry beyond the Binary” symposium will showcase WCC’s work to build intentional spaces for any chemist who has faced gender discrimination. The connections we are developing with ACS committees, divisions, other relevant groups, and external organizations like Empowering Women in Organic Chemistry (EWOC) strengthen women’s ability to function effectively in the professional arena.

As WCC continues to provide opportunities to achieve equal representation and influence, we must also generate a space for reflection. How does the world of 2024 compare with 1927, when ACS formalized this movement for women in chemistry? What is the role of the chemistry enterprise in this world in crisis that we inhabit today? How can we truly benefit Earth and all its people? What are we leaving future generations? Global problems require solutions that exceed the capacity of any individual group, necessitating the ability to work with rather than compete against one another. Please join the conversation by sending your comments to WCC@acs.org. For more information on WCC events, visit our website at acswcc.org.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of C&EN or ACS.

Thanks, Lorena, for stepping up to this important ACS leadership position!

LEHIGH VALLEY ACS CAREER PAGE

Check out the Career page on our website lvacs.org/careers for a wealth of information on the services provided by LVACS and ACS to chemists at all stages of their careers. Online courses, 1-on-1 consulting, professional development grants and the [ACS Career Navigator™](#) package are some of the benefits offered to ACS members to assist in planning and executing your career. Greglynn Gibbs, our local section ACS Career Consultant, would be happy to assist any member seeking more information at greglgibbs@gmail.com

ACS Virtual Office Hour – Is Grad School Right for Me?





ACS Career Navigator

Professional Education Short Courses On Demand Online Courses Sci-Mind™		ACS Careers Chemistry for Life™ Careers Services Career Consulting Career Fairs Virtual Career Fairs Career Pathways
Leadership Development Online Courses Facilitated Courses		Market Intelligence Employment Dashboard Salary Comparator Employment Reports Ethics & Professional Guidelines Chemical Labor Market Tracking

Chemists: Thinking about what's next after your baccalaureate? ACS is offering a FREE virtual career guidance session, titled 'Is Grad School Right for Me?' **Thursday, April 4th 2024** at 12pm EST. Open to ACS members and non-members, this session will be led by an ACS Career Consultant and offers participants **personalized career advice** and **small group networking sessions**. This event is free and open to ACS members and non-members, but you must [register](#) to save your seat. Register for 'Is Grad School Right for Me?' and get your message out there to prospective employers! Please pass this along to friends and colleagues in your network who would be interested.

Career Pathways™ Virtual Workshops

This free ACS Member-exclusive program is dedicated to helping budding chemists navigate their careers. These monthly interactive workshops explore career opportunities in industry, higher education, government, and working for yourself. Career Pathways™ Virtual Workshops also provide advice on networking, resume development, interviewing tips, and more.

[Register](#) for a 2024 Career Pathways™ Virtual Workshop



*****WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH*****

Setting Yourself Up for Success in an Interview

12:00 - 1:30 PM (ET)

Understand how to navigate multiple interview processes and learn how job search data, job post analysis, and due diligence can help you locate and land your dream job.

Lehigh Valley ACS Senior Chemists Page

Tips to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Cyber Criminals

By Frank Romano

Frank is a member of the SCC and Co-Editor of the SCC Newsletter



It was not long ago that threats to steal our wealth or identity were much less sophisticated. We received emails with poor grammar and/or misspellings trying to convince us to send money for one reason or another. Times have changed tremendously, and the attacks have become much more sophisticated. Today, you may receive an email that appears to be from someone you know or that appears to be from a legitimate company, government agency, or financial institution. Even more concerning is the potential for AI (Artificial Intelligence) to introduce a new level of creativity and authenticity to the attacks. You may have heard of instances where voices and faces of people you know can be replicated using AI. What steps can we take to protect our wealth and identity? In an article published in the Fall 2023 SCC Newsletter, Scott Ksander offered some good tips to avoid becoming a victim. I would like to offer some additional steps you can take to protect yourself and your family.

For those of us still employed, we have probably had to attend regular cybersecurity training. In my company we must take this training annually and pass an exam at the end. In addition, our IT (Information Technology) team randomly tests us by sending fake emails to see if we catch and report them before clicking on any links. For those of us that have since retired, we need to rely on other sources for advice on how to protect ourselves from attacks. AARP routinely runs articles in their newsletters with great suggestions on how to avoid becoming a victim. You may also receive recommendations from your financial institutions, utilities, healthcare institutions, news organizations, and others. I highly recommend that you keep yourself current on the latest form of threats by making it a priority to read these articles and heed the warnings.



Recently I have personally experienced an increase in fake emails which appear to be from legitimate sources. It is best to not click on any links within the emails or text messages unless you are certain it is a legitimate link. If you decide to use the link out of convenience, you should always mouse over the link to display the full text before fully clicking on it; this should verify if it is real as opposed to malicious (malicious links only partially resemble the official links and/or typically include a series of random characters). A better practice would be to open a web browser and go to the official site to transact your business.

If you are contacted by a scammer or fraudster, remember to never share your passwords. Never disclose personal information. If something doesn't feel right, terminate the call. If you believe you have become a victim of a cyber threat or fraudster, you should immediately report it to your local authorities. There may be other steps you need to take to protect yourself after an attack. Do not feel embarrassed as this is happening much more frequently, and even cyber savvy individuals can be caught off guard. I hope this article gets you started on becoming more vigilant and you can avoid becoming a victim.

Reprinted from the ACS Senior Chemists Committee March 2024 Newsletter – page 4

LEHIGH VALLEY SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEOFFICERS

Chair:
Philip Elias
philipjelias@gmail.com



Chair Elect:
Chester Crane
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