
THE OCTAGON

March Section Meeting

Muhlenberg College

2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Thursday, March 23rd

Developing the Formula for a Rewarding Career in Science

Speaker: Todd McEvoy, Azzur Labs, Schnecksville, PA 18078



AZZUR GROUP



Finding a career based in the sciences can be extremely rewarding. However, it isn't always clear for students, and even professionals, just what opportunities exist and what direction they can, and should, follow. There are numerous career pathways that exist for the scientist and choosing the right one can be a daunting task. To help resolve these questions, this presentation will provide strategies to help guide scientists to develop a formula that leads to a successful and rewarding career. This presentation will include discussion on several areas such as:

- Identifying personal motivators and demotivators
- Evaluating what careers align with your interests and values
- Exploring traditional and non-traditional career pathways
- Science doesn't always require you to be at the bench
- Using more than just data to create the formula that works for you

Social Hour 5:30-6:15 pm; Dinner 6:15-7:15 pm:

Seegers Union Rooms 108-109 ([campus map](#) #1)

Meeting/Speaker 7:30-8:30 pm:

Trumbower Hall Room 130 ([campus map](#) #5)

PLEASE POST [FLYER!!](#)

Cost: \$30 for members; \$15 for students

RSVP to Maria Eden by Monday, March 13th:

(484-664-3060; mariaeden@muhlenberg.edu)

Directions: <https://www.muhlenberg.edu/directions/>

Parking: Since the event is after business hours, there will be plenty of parking in the staff lot near Trumbower Science Hall ([campus map](#) #5).



Todd McEvoy serves as Senior Director of Laboratory Services for Azzur Labs at their Schnecksville, PA location. In this role he is accountable for all aspects of business performance. Prior to this role, he was employed by Intertek and served both technical and leadership roles including senior scientist, Laboratory Operations Manager, and most recently, General Manager. He joined Intertek in 2010 after 6 years with Air Products and Chemicals in various research and development roles including microscopy, surface science, polymer analysis, and on-site water treatment pilot trials. Todd graduated with a BS in Chemistry and with Honors from Shippensburg University, and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. His graduate work at UT focused on developing integrated spectral, microscopic and electrochemical methods to study charge storage processes in electrochromic ion-storage materials. He is past president and board member of ALMA (Association of Laboratory Managers).

CONTACT: Sherri Young, sherriyoung@muhlenberg.edu



LVACS Events Calendar

March 2023

Science Fairs: Judges still needed!

Lehigh Valley Science & Engineering Research Fair

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Lehigh University, Goodman Campus
Rauch Field House, 123 Goodman Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015

[Information](#) [Register](#)



Reading-Berks Science Engineering Fair

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Albright College, Bollman Gymnasium
Schumo Center for Fitness and Well-Being
N. 13th St. and Richmond St. Reading, PA

Judging from 7:45 am to 4:15 pm with breakfast/lunch

[Information](#) [Register](#)



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April 2023

April Section Meeting and Undergraduate Poster Session

[DeSales University](#)

2755 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034

Wednesday, April 12th

Speaker: Robert Hickey, Penn State U

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



April 16-22: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week

The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae

Outreach Events: TBA

How will you Celebrate 'Planet A' in 2023?

Read more about ACS 2023 CCEW [here](#)



Special Earth Day event: On Earth Day, **Saturday, April 22nd**, LVACS will be co-sponsoring a special half-day symposium on climate science at Cedar Crest College with plenary speakers Sherine Obare, (UNC-Greensburg and 2022-2023 chair of ACS ENVR Division), Jonas Baltrusaitis (Lehigh University), and Laura McBride (Albright College). **CONTACT:** Lindsey Welch, lawelch@cedarcrest.edu

Always watch www.lvacs.org for current meeting and event updates.

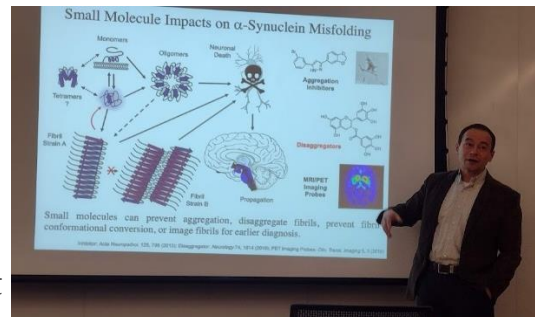
Octagon **CONTACT:** Nigel Sanders, LVACS secretary and newsletter editor, nigel53.sanders@gmail.com

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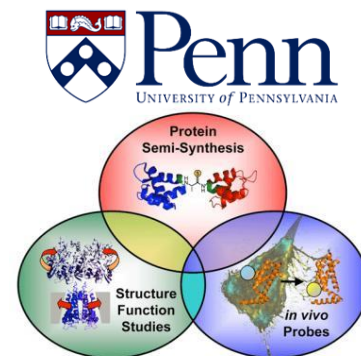
February Section Meeting Report

The February 16th section meeting at Lafayette went very well with a couple of twists! Thirty-one members enjoyed dinner and attended the meeting and seminar afterwards. For the first time in many years a cash bar was offered as a 'pilot' test for future meetings. The Executive Committee will report back to members soon with a decision on this. The meeting and seminar portions were held in a newly renovated set of classrooms on the 5th floor of the Acopian Engineering Center. A very nice new space! Steve Boyer, LVACS 2023 Chair, presented a brief [summary](#) of the Section's upcoming activities and opportunities for grants and awards. Of special note was the premier announcement of a new LVACS section award: The George Ruger LVACS Student Travel Award, a \$150 travel award for students presenting at an ACS Conference. The first deadline for submission is March 7th, 2023. For details, contact Steve at sboyer11@esu.edu. Also, Prof. Oriana Fisher of Lehigh University presented an invitation to rising seniors to participate in a new NSF grant-supported research experience program called BOUNDS, beginning in the summer of 2023. For info/application form visit: <https://sites.google.com/lehigh.edu/bounds/home>. The speaker, Prof. E. [James Petersson](#) of the University of Pennsylvania, told us about an area of biomedical science obscure for many of us: protein aggregation processes often associated with neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease. James's talk, *Visualizing α -Synuclein in Neurodegeneration: From all-atom simulations to in vivo imaging*, was very impressive with examples from his lab's multidisciplinary approach to the problem including computation, synthesis of α -synuclein bearing post-translational modifications and photochemical probes, single molecule biophysics, structural biology, cellular and animal models for microscopy and proteomics, and development of positron emission tomography (PET) probes for clinical imaging. (Wow and all in ~60 minutes!) The seminar culminated in his discussion of a new molecule that is being tested for improved visualization of alpha-synuclein in PET and other diagnostic scans for neurodegenerative disorders in U. Penn's Perelman School of medicine. Four people asked questions before the meeting ended at 8:35pm.



Visualizing α -Synuclein in Neurodegeneration: From all-atom simulations to in vivo imaging

Fibrillar aggregates of the neuronal protein α -synuclein are a hallmark of Parkinson's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders. However, a causative role for α -synuclein aggregation in these diseases has not been clearly identified. In order to understand the aggregation process, our laboratory uses a multidisciplinary approach, including computational approaches combining molecular simulations and machine learning models, synthesis of α -synuclein bearing post-translational modifications and photochemical probes, single molecule biophysics, structural biology, cellular and animal models for microscopy and proteomics, and development of positron emission tomography (PET) probes for clinical imaging. Several projects will be discussed, highlighting the value of a multi-faceted and collaborative approach.



LEHIGH VALLEY ACS ANNOUNCES 2023 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society will award its annual Scholarship for Organic Chemistry this spring! To be eligible, students should be below the junior level, currently enrolled in organic chemistry at an institution in the section, and a chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering major. The competition entails taking the ACS Organic Chemistry Examination (45%), a brief, one-page letter of recommendation from the student's organic chemistry professor (10%), and an essay on a topic in organic chemistry (45%). The value of the scholarship is \$1000. Additionally, the top essay will receive \$100. Details about the exam, letter, and essay follow below. **Students should indicate their interest in the scholarship by April 27th, 2023 to Dr. Michael Bertucci (bertuccm@lafayette.edu)**

ACS Organic Chemistry Examination: The exam will be administered on **Saturday, April 29th, 2023 at Lafayette College, Easton, PA from 9:00-11:00 AM**. Students should report to the entry foyer of the Hugel Science Center (#7 on map, see next page). Parking is available in the Markle Parking Deck behind Markle Hall (#2 on map). Juice and bagels will be available inside the foyer starting at 8:30 AM.

Essay: The student should address the impact of an organic molecule or process in organic chemistry on society and his or her personal interest in it. The essay should be written at a level to interest and educate a general chemist who has completed both undergraduate-level organic chemistry courses. If a molecule is chosen, the synthesis, including key mechanistic features and structural analysis, should be covered. If a process is chosen, the physical and chemical basis for its success should be explained. Appropriate use of structures to facilitate understanding of the chemistry is expected. An additional page with references must be included. References should follow the guidelines as delineated in the ACS Style Guide. The essay should run from 1000 to no more than 1200 words in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins on all sides. The references and figures are not considered in the overall word count. Each page should have a header with the student's last name, brief essay title and page number. The winning essay after editing may be published in a future issue of the Octagon.

The essay will be rated on:

- Appropriate depth of coverage of the molecule or process
- Appropriate depth of coverage on the impact on society and student's interest
- Ease of reading, including grammar, spelling, and logical flow of the material
- Appropriate use of scholarly references & formatting

The essay should be submitted electronically to bertuccm@lafayette.edu by the student before the exam begins on April 29th. The essay can be submitted at any time before the day of the exam; so, you are encouraged to get started early!

Letter of Recommendation: Professors writing a letter of recommendation on behalf of a student who is applying for the Lehigh Valley ACS Scholarship should speak to the student's skills in lecture and laboratory in Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry II. Please provide the course grade for Organic Chemistry I and comment on performance on written exams, proficiency in organic lab, and participation in course-related activities. **The letter of recommendation should be no more than one page in length, must be signed on institutional letterhead, and submitted electronically to bertuccm@lafayette.edu by the student's professor before the exam begins on April 29th.**

PLEASE SEND ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS AND INQUIRIES TO: Mike Bertucci, bertuccm@lafayette.edu

Lehigh Valley Section Announces Inaugural George Ruger Student Travel Awards

To honor the memory of past LVACS chair and devoted ACS volunteer George Ruger, the Lehigh Valley Section is pleased to announce a new \$150 award for students at Lehigh Valley Colleges and Universities to offset the costs of travel to present at an ACS National or Regional meeting. The application form is printed below and may also be downloaded [here](#).

Please submit this completed form to Steven Boyer (sboyer11@esu.edu) along with:

- A copy of the accepted meeting abstract
- A short explanatory letter (1 page max) describing what you hope to learn from the meeting

Eligibility:

- Any college or university student in the Lehigh Valley Local Section that is presenting at an ACS National or Regional meeting
- Preference will be given to first-time attendees
- Award is based on merit as judged by the local section Executive Committee

2023 Deadlines:

- Spring National Meeting 3/7/2023
- MARM, NERM, Fall National Meeting 4/31/2023

Application:

Student Name _____ Institution _____
Faculty Advisor _____
Presentation Title _____

Conference Attending _____

This conference is (circle one) a regional conference a national conference

Format of presentation (circle all that apply) poster oral
Is this your first conference presentation: Yes No
Have you won a previous LVACS Travel Award? Yes No
Any other travel support?

Student Name _____
Student Signature _____ Date _____
Faculty Advisor Name _____
Faculty Advisor Signature _____ Date _____



Lehigh Announces **BOUNDS** Research Projects for Undergrads

BOUNDS

Biochemistry Opportunities for **Undergraduate Scientists**

Funded by a LEAPS grant from the National Science Foundation

Where? Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

When? June 4 – August 11, 2023

Eligibility: Rising seniors

Especially those who have not previously had independent research experience and/or identify as a member of a group historically underrepresented in STEM

Stipend: \$5500

• Summer 2023

- Work closely with faculty, students, and research staff on cutting-edge research
- Attend workshops about graduate life, science writing, and scientific presentations
- Present your work through research talks and poster sessions



• 2023-2024 academic year

- Meet monthly with a cohort of undergraduate seniors to navigate the process of applying to graduate school and beyond

Summer 2023 projects are available in laboratories within the [Biochemistry Division](#) in the [Department of Chemistry](#) at [Lehigh University](#). Applications will close on **March 20, 2023**.

Click [here](#) to apply

More info and link to application form:

<https://sites.google.com/lehigh.edu/bounds/home>

Contact: Prof. Oriana Fisher, orf206@lehigh.edu

LVACS Submits 2022 Annual Reports to ACS

The 2022 year for the Lehigh Valley local section was successful on a number of levels. This past year showed the return to in-person meetings after two years of predominantly virtual activities during the pandemic. We coordinated and facilitated a Strategic Planning Retreat in June 2022, hosted at Cedar Crest College. Seven members led by two ACS facilitators revised our mission and vision and designed three strategic goals with eight strategies to be implemented over the next several years. By the end of 2022, the local section had already accomplished creating and communicating a [value statement](#) and drafted a communication plan for the membership. The local section is clearly on its way to meeting its goals and demonstrating the benefits of ACS to its members. Events held during the year included High School Teachers' Night, National Chemistry Week and Chemists Celebrate Earth Week events, the annual Undergraduate Poster Session and Award Ceremony, a Women Chemists Committee events at the Reading Science Center and at a local winery, and a Career Exploration event geared toward undergraduate students in the local section. We were nominated for and won four Chemluminary Awards based on events in 2021. Section officers met regularly via Zoom to discuss future events and keep up to date on the progress of the strategic plan. The local section is currently seated in a position to continue building robust programming and events to serve the members and the local community through education, professional development, and the promotion of the chemical enterprise.

The Lehigh Valley local section of ACS has continued a tradition of robust programming to support chemists in the region. Events range from offering professional development and highlighting the students in the numerous colleges and universities, to hosting engaging scientific talks, to educating local youth via Project SEED and NCW/CCEW events. LVACS has demonstrated its resiliency by returning to in-person meetings after mainly offering virtual programming during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The April 2022 meeting boasted nearly 60 attendees for the recognition of undergraduate students and presentation of their research projects in a poster session. In June 2022, we hosted a highly productive in-person Strategic Planning Retreat to reinvigorate the section with project plans to meet the three goals: (1) increase current and future member engagement, (2) ensure LVACS communications are current and effective, and (3) develop partnerships to provide resources to benefit the Lehigh Valley community. Since the retreat, LVACS has already approved and posted our revised Value Statement for the local section.

For the full Administration/Governance Summary Report submitted to ACS, click [here](#). The corresponding Financial Summary Report may be accessed [here](#). A listing of 2022 meetings and events can be viewed [here](#).

The Octagon congratulates 2022 Chair, Lindsey Welch, and the Executive Committee on guiding us through another fantastic year of chemistry and community-focused events as we strive to achieve our strategic vision: *Improving Our Community Through Chemistry!*



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 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



Join the ACS for this free Virtual Office Hour session on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 12pm EST. Open to ACS members and non-members, this virtual session will begin with a presentation reviewing ins and outs of acing your next interview, followed by the opportunity to network in small groups lead by ACS Career Consultants. Register: [here](#)

CHEMISTRY JOB LISTINGS: These listings are posted to aid LVACS members in their career development and do not reflect a recommendation of these institutions by LVACS. For an updated listing, check our website, www.lvacs.org

Scientist, Printing Inks - Allentown, PA, Evonik Allentown, PA On-site

As a member of the Coatings Additives Business Line's Applied Research & Technology organization, this position will contribute to the growth of the BL by growing business with existing products through technical service and product positioning as well as by developing commercially viable New Products that meet unmet market and critical customer needs. [Apply](#)

Chemist - Adhesives, Wacker Chemical Corporation USA, Allentown, PA On-site

This position will be focused on technical service, application development and product development for customers in the adhesives market for North America. This position will require significant time working in the laboratory. This role will be crucial in initiating, developing, and maintaining relationships between customers and Wacker from a technical perspective. This position will coordinate and work with R&D, production sites, business teams, EH&S, and the Sales team to grow profitable and sustainable business. In addition, this role has primary responsibility to maintain a safe work environment through establishing, implementing, and maintaining safe work practices in the team and in the technical community in general. [Apply](#)

Formulation Chemist Personal Care, Brenntag, Allentown, PA

The Formulation Chemist is responsible for creating innovative starting point formulations and managing customer projects, product development, and application testing in order to support the sales and marketing organization as well bring value to our customers and suppliers. [Apply](#)

Chemist, Evonik, Allentown, PA On-site

Manages and completes new product development programs to meet the emerging needs of the epoxy adhesive market, that results in increased, defensible opportunities for the ECA business line. Works with North America-Application Technology and adhesive market leads to manage assigned product development projects from concept to commercialization. Support customers and commercial team on the adhesive curing agents and additives product lines and be the key point of contact. Understand the ECA base product offerings and have a deep knowledge of structure-properties-relationship to apply for the new product design. Develops a strong working relationship with technology teams in the Americas and further develop these relationships with technical counterparts in Europe & Asia. Demonstrates technical leadership in the area of safety and product stewardship. [Apply](#)

LEHIGH VALLEY ACS CAREER PAGE [continued]

Post Doc Industrial Fellow - High Performance Polymers, Evonik, Allentown, PA On-site

The position is limited to 15 months.

Contribute to R&D projects, communicate with partners internally (e.g., Technical centers in Marl and China) and externally (e.g., concerning polymer processing). This includes the planning, preparation, coordination, and execution of R&D work in labs and plants. The position holder will be in contact with customers and internal stakeholders to learn new competences and get involve with main tasks and challenges in polymer development work. [Apply](#)

Sr. Research Chemist, Church & Dwight Co., Inc., Princeton, NJ On-site

The Senior Research Chemist will work with other researchers and multidisciplinary project teams to solve problems using various analytical chemistry techniques. Work with Sr. Manager Applied Sciences and other Analytical, and Microbiology Leads to develop a 5- and 10-year plan to build C&D's Analytical/Microbiology capability delivering a roadmap to support innovation. The Senior Research Chemist will be able to interpret and communicate results to various product and process personnel. The Senior Research Chemist will also mentor other chemists and technicians in the department. [Apply](#)

Senior Surfactants Scientist, Nouryon, Bridgewater, NJ

The Senior Surfactants Scientist will join the Nouryon team and be responsible for the research, development, and evaluation of surfactant ingredients for the home and personal care segments. This may include developments for various sub-segments, such as hard surface cleaners, degreasers, laundry and dish washing products, personal cleansing systems, conditioners, sunscreens, and skin care products. [Apply](#)

ACS-Hach [Grants and Scholarships for High School Chemistry Educators](#)

ACS-Hach Programs provide financial support to future and current high school chemistry teachers throughout the U.S. From completing teaching credentials to obtaining support for classroom resources, chemistry teachers can count on ACS-Hach Programs to help them advance chemistry education for their students.



[ACS-Hach Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Scholarship:](#) provides financial support of up to \$6,000 for full-time study and up to \$3,000 for part-time study for chemistry graduates with limited work experience to obtain a master's degree in education or teacher certification in chemistry. [Apply by May 1.](#)

[ACS-Hach Second Career Teacher Scholarship:](#) provides financial support of up to \$6,000 for full-time study and up to \$3,000 for part-time study for chemistry professionals to obtain a master's degree in education or teacher certification in chemistry. [Apply by May 1.](#)

[ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grant:](#) grants of up to \$1,500 are available for high school chemistry teachers to use to cover basic classroom or laboratory needs, fund professional development experiences, or support innovative ideas in chemistry education. [Apply by June 1.](#)

[ACS-Hach Land Grant Teacher Scholarship:](#) provides financial support of up to \$10,000 for full-time study to obtain a chemistry undergraduate degree and chemistry teaching credentials at one of our 72 partner institutions. Contact [participating universities](#) directly for application details.

LVACS Announces High School Chemistry Awards

John Freeman, LVACS Awards Committee Chair, has announced the 2023 Chemagination Competition, Foundation in Chemistry Award and the Lehigh Valley Section Award for Excellence in High School Teaching. More on these awards, including application forms and past winners can be found by visiting our website, <https://www.lvacs.org/education-and-student-awards>. CONTACT: John Freeman, jcf2@rcn.com

Chemagination Competition

The Lehigh Valley American Chemical Society (LVACS) will be 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. 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." In addition to the article, students are asked to design a cover for the magazine. The article must be written as if the student is living in the year 2048, looking back at innovations that have occurred since 2023. The innovation must fall into one of the following categories: Alternative Energy, Environment, Medicine/Health, or New Materials. The winners of the LVACS local section competition will advance to the regional meeting, MARM 2023. **Application materials: see the appendices of this issue.**

Foundation in Chemistry Scholarship Award

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) is delighted to announce the 2023 Foundation in Chemistry Award. The award, designed to promote the chemical sciences at the college level, will be given to a high school senior who will be majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering and attending a college or university in the Lehigh Valley Section. This scholarship award consists of \$1000 and a certificate, which will be presented to the winner at a meeting of the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. The guidelines for the award and the application materials are attached. Please share this information with parents, students and guidance counselors and post the flyer. The four-part application should be completed and submitted by **April 14, 2023**. **Application materials: see the appendices of this issue.**

The Lehigh Valley Section Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) is delighted to announce the 2023 award for excellence in teaching. The award is designed to promote excellence in chemistry instruction at the high school level. Within the membership boundaries of the LVACS (Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Monroe, Schuylkill, and Carbon Counties in PA, and Warren County in NJ). We hope that you will identify an outstanding teacher at your school and support them for the award. The Application materials follow Please share them with a teacher or administrator that has shown excellence in the instruction of the chemical sciences. The application should be completed and submitted by **April 1, 2023**. **Application materials: see the appendices of this issue.**



ACS Council Agenda Issued for Spring 2023 Meeting

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING
8:00 A.M. ET
March 29, 2023

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ACS Council Agenda Issued for Spring 2023 Meeting

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IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution

ACS Fellows Nominations Are Open!

Recognize an ACS Member's outstanding contributions to science and the profession, as well as their exemplary service to ACS, **by nominating them to be an ACS Fellow!** The ACS Fellows Program recognizes members of the ACS for excellence and leadership in both of two areas:

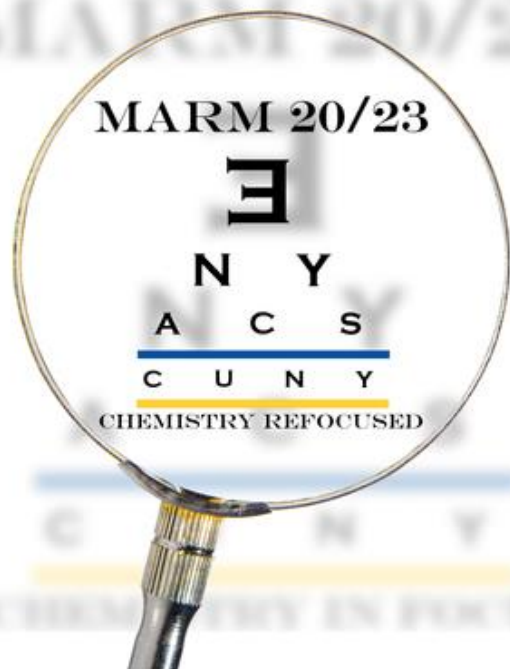
(1) science, the profession, education, and/or management, and (2) volunteer service in the ACS community. **Visit the ACS Fellows web page** for complete nomination details, and please e-mail any questions to fellows@acs.org. Nominations are open through **April 1** – nominate today!





MARM 2023: Registration is now open!

CHEMISTRY REFOCUSED



The [New York ACS](#) along with its partners at the [The Graduate Center of the City University of New York](#) and [St. John's University](#) are proud to present the 2023 Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting on June 9-10, 2023. This mini-MARM has the theme of 'Chemistry Refocused' and will include technical sessions, poster sessions, an exposition, employment programming including a resume review workshop, a graduate study fair, a social media social, a Women's Chemists Committee workshop on Promotion to Full Professor, a 50/60/70-year member luncheon, and an awards banquet.

Exhibitors and Sponsors are encouraged to [apply now](#) as space is limited. [Registration](#) is now open. Register by April 30th to take advantage of early registration fees!

ACS
Chemistry for Life®

CHEMISTS
CELEBRATE
EARTH WEEK

The Curious Chemistry of

**AMAZING
ALGAE**

April 16-22, 2023

#CCEW

Take a deep breath: When we inhale, our lungs take in oxygen, a gas that makes up part of the air we breathe. We need to breathe oxygen to stay alive. Where does it come from? You may already know that trees and other land plants help make the oxygen in our environment. But do not forget about algae, which produce over half of the oxygen that you inhale each time you breathe! Most types of algae grow in freshwater (lakes, ponds, rivers, streams) or saltwater (oceans, seas, lagoons). Algae provide food, habitat, and oxygen to the organisms that live in water. Algae are the base of many **food webs** and are necessary for a healthy aquatic **ecosystem**. Algae use elements such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus as nutrients for growth. Most healthy bodies of water tend to have enough of these elements to help just the right amount of algae grow. However, algae can also grow out of control if the water around them contains too many nutrients resulting in **harmful algal blooms (HAB)**. This can happen when fertilizers and animal waste from farms mix with water. The algal growth sometimes covers the whole surface of the water body, and can give off toxins that harm other **aquatic organisms**. During the day, algae can also block sunlight from reaching other algae and animals below the water's surface. When algae eventually die, they decay in water and use up a lot of oxygen from it. This can make the amount of oxygen in the water dangerously low, which can harm other organisms. People sometimes forget that algae do so many good things for us. There are thousands and thousands of different kinds of algae, and only a few types are harmful. Algae are not just "green goo" ... actually, they are "green good"! They produce oxygen, capture carbon dioxide (a **greenhouse gas**), and help keep aquatic ecosystems healthy. Is it not amazing what algae do for us and earth?

- *Susan Hershberger is Director, Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University in Oxford Ohio.*

The Challenges of Tempting Your Sweet Tooth

Ghirardelli R&D Manager Sarah discusses product development in the sweet side of chemistry

Sarah Woodling Houle, Research & Development Manager, Everyday Confections, Baking, Professional Products and Restaurant & Retail, Ghirardelli Chocolate Company

Excerpted from: [Industry Matters Newsletter](#)

July 15, 2021 8:58 AM EDT



How did you decide on food science as your passion?

When I was in high school, my dad suggested I do a science fair project based on something he learned in wilderness survival school - if you boil an egg for 10 seconds, you can put it on your shelf and it will keep for 3 months. This simple statement turned into a three-year project that got me connected with professors in the Poultry Science and Food Science departments at Penn State. I was also fortunate to attend the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences for six weeks of the summer after my junior year, which pretty much cemented my trajectory into Food Science, and I never looked back.

Part of your job is leading a team to develop new food products. Does it get increasingly more difficult to do that as more and more new products are continuously introduced? To put it another way, are all the really good ideas already taken?

Yes and no. In some sense it does get very complicated to continue to come up with compelling ideas when you are limited to a certain type of product. At Ghirardelli, our Milk & Caramel squares are some of our best sellers, so trying to come up with variations of chocolate and new flavors of caramel in a square can be a big challenge. However, consumer trends and palates are always changing in a lot of other areas so that provides new options for innovation that would have fallen flat 10 years ago. Imagine trying to launch anything made with "Oat Milk" in 2001 vs 2021 - there would be a BIG difference in consumer acceptance and purchase interest in those products 20 years ago.

Was there a particular product you developed in the lab that you were convinced would market test successfully, but didn't?

Sadly, this is a reality we face as product developers - we have absolutely delicious products that for whatever reason don't perform on shelf. In a previous job, I helped develop and launch some absolutely delicious, seasoned tortilla chips, snack mixes and popcorn. The products were delicious, the packaging was bold and eye catching. But they weren't able to get a foothold in such a competitive segment and were ultimately discontinued. R.I.P. Buck Wild Snacks.

Why is it that when formulating chocolate-based confections with almond inclusions, the two primary methods of product failure are surface fat bloom and rancid flavor? How do you avoid those outcomes?

It all comes down to the fat in the almonds and the fat in the chocolate, and how well they do (or don't) get along. Almonds are rich in unsaturated fats, which are heart healthy but also very susceptible to light and oxygen. So, the key is to start with very fresh almonds and get them into your chocolate as quickly as possible. Once they are locked in the chocolate, that will help protect them from oxygen and light, and then a good, opaque wrapper usually takes care of the rest. Regarding bloom, you are once again focused on the fats, but this time you are concerned about the fat in the chocolate not playing well with the fat in the almonds. Cocoa butter is the fat in chocolate, and the crystalline structure of that fat is what gives you a glossy, snappy chocolate bar. This is achieved by tempering (heating and cooling the liquid chocolate to promote the right crystals to form). One way to help prevent surface fat bloom in a chocolate bar that contains almonds is to use a highly tempered chocolate and then to store the bar at a cold temperature over the life of the bar. These two things, in combination, will help prevent the fat from the almonds from moving through the bar to the surface, which is what causes surface fat bloom.

The Challenges of Tempting Your Sweet Tooth

[continued]

What is the one personality trait that has been most instrumental in your career success? What trait do you wish you had in greater supply?

I have always been very good at connecting with people, finding a common ground and building a relationship off of that. If you follow the Strength Finders model, I index high in "WOO", which stands for "Winning Others Over". As a product developer, you have to work with lots of different functions and their varying personality types. The ability to work well with all types of people, from Marketing all the way through to Operations, has definitely helped make me successful throughout my career. As far as what I wish I had in greater supply, I would say patience. While I have more than I had when I was younger, it is still something I struggle with, in both my personal and professional lives.

A key responsibility of yours is to lead teams at Ghirardelli. What makes for a successful leader of teams?

Wow, great question, because this is something that is super important to me, and an area I spend a lot of time thinking about. For me, what makes a successful leader is someone who truly understands that their success is only achieved through the success of their team members. I have seen some very talented and successful scientists struggle to make the leap into leading a team because they just could not let go of the control over their own success and would even go so far as to be competitive with their team members! I want nothing more than to see my team be successful in whatever they are doing, and if they are running into roadblocks or challenges, I know my job is to step in, if asked to help remove them. Otherwise, I stand back and let them shine in whatever it is they are working on. A former manager once told me "Whether your team is successful or not, it will come back on you 10-fold." I took those words to heart, and so far it has served me pretty well.

Regarding your early career team members (i.e., 0-5 years' experience), what is most important for them to accomplish in their first five years if they wish to be considered for advancement/promotion opportunities at Ghirardelli?

For the newer members of the R&D team here at Ghirardelli, there are a lot of boxes to check to be considered for advancement and promotion. I encourage my team to be sponges, to watch, listen and learn from more seasoned team members and the company leaders. The focus should also not just be on the technical, but on the "how." Communication and presentation skills are something that can take you far in your career as a product developer, so we definitely spend a lot of time working on how to write effective emails and deliver impactful presentations.

I have this image of vending machines all over your workplace in San Leandro stuffed with a variety of free Ghirardelli chocolates. Is that the reality? If so, to whom shall I send my employment application?

Free candy all day every day is standard when working for chocolate companies - the rumors you hear are true! All the conference rooms at Ghirardelli definitely had bowls that were kept stocked full of our squares pre-COVID. However, even now, being in R&D means access to pretty much unlimited amounts of product, but I can tell you the reality check sets in after about 2-3 months of snacking on the job when you try to put on your pants one morning and they don't fit anymore! So you learn to limit how much candy you eat throughout your day, especially because in my job I HAVE to taste products a lot. We like to say in our product tastings that we have the best job in the world when the point of the meeting is to taste 6 different brownies, cookies or milkshakes. If this sounds like a job you or anyone would like to have - be sure to check out our Careers section of www.ghirardelli.com!



Sarah Woodling Houle has spent the past 16 years in the food industry working in various Product Development roles. Currently she is the Research & Development Manager of Everyday confections, Baking, Professional Products and Restaurant & Retail at the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company in San Leandro CA. She has previously worked as a Product Developer at Continental Mills, The Hershey Company, and General Mills. She holds degrees in Food Science from Penn State (BS) and Cornell (MS).



LEHIGH VALLEY SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEOFFICERS

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sboyer11@esu.edu



Chair Elect:
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pelias@muhlenberg.edu



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jrberk@cedarcrest.edu



Kelley Caflin (term ends 12/31/23)
caflinacs@yahoo.com

ALTERNATE COUNCILORS

Mike Bertucci (term ends 12/31/23)
bertuccm@lafayette.edu



Ned Corcoran (term ends 12/31/24)
ewc777@gmail.com

APPENDICES: INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS FOR LVACS HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Pages 16-17 Chemagination Competition

Pages 18-20 Foundation in Chemistry Award

Pages 21-26 The Lehigh Valley Section Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

2023 CHEMAGINATION COMPETITION

Dear High School Teachers,

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) will be 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/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html).

In addition to the article, students are asked to design a cover for the magazine. The article must be written as if the student is living in the year 2048, looking back at innovations that have occurred since 2023. The innovation must fall into one of the following categories:

- * Alternative Energy
- * Medicine/Health
- * Environment
- * New Materials

A few examples of areas where development is expected are nanotechnology, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, green chemistry, sustainability, intelligent devices for sensing, proteomics, climate models, biopharmaceutical therapies, medical devices and/or implants and new energy sources.

Questions to guide your students

1. How did this research begin? What prompted or catalyzed the idea?
2. How did this research evolve from the initial research idea to the final innovation 25 years later? What were some of the key breakthroughs?
3. How did the research team work together and collaborate over the years?

The local section competition will be completely electronic. Teams should submit their articles and cover design to by **April 14, 2023**. The articles will be judged based on the MARM 2023 rules. Please refer to the attached document titled 2023 MARM CHEMAGINATION DESCRIPTION AND RULES for the official rules.

The winners of the LVACS local section competition will advance to the regional meeting, MARM 2023, sponsored by the NY ACS Section of the ACS. This will be held on Saturday, June 10th at St. John’s University. First place category winners from the LVACS Section’s Chemagination contests are eligible to participate in MARM 2023. If a first-place winning team chooses not to participate, a second place team may serve as an alternate. At that event masks covering the nose and mouth may be required. Students and faculty will be required to comply with any existing NY COVID-19 regulations for large gatherings.

DEADLINES: 2023 Chemagination

March 15: Teams should submit their intent to participate (this allows for appropriate judge recruitment but is not a firm deadline.)

April 14: Teams submit their articles online for the LVACS competition to lvacschemagin@gmail.com. (This is a firm deadline)

May 9: Teams notified of award status (This is a firm deadline)

Late May TBD: LVACS winning teams submit their articles for MARM 2023 pre-judging

June 10: The 2023 MARM Chemagination Competition takes place at St Johns University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439

Fall TBD: Teams honored at a Lehigh Valley ACS meeting

Regards,
John Freeman Chemagination2023 coordinator
lvacschemagin@gmail.com

2023 Foundation in Chemistry Award

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) is delighted to announce the 2023 Foundation in Chemistry Award. The award, designed to promote the chemical sciences at the college level, will be given to a high school senior who will be majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering and attending a college or university in the Lehigh Valley Section. This scholarship award consists of \$1000 and a certificate, which will be presented to the winner at a meeting of the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. The guidelines for the award and the application materials are attached.

As an ACS member please share this information with parents, students and guidance counselors and post the flyer. The four-part application should be completed and submitted by **April 14, 2023**. We appreciate your help and thank you for publicizing the 2023 Foundation in Chemistry Award. We look forward to many worthy applications.

Instructions: The Foundation in Chemistry Award is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) to promote the chemical sciences at the college level. This award, consisting of \$1000 and a plaque, will be awarded annually to a high school senior within the membership boundaries of the LVACS (Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Monroe, Schuylkill, and Carbon Counties in PA, and Warren County in NJ) to attend a college in the Lehigh Valley area (eligible colleges are listed below) and intending to major in chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering. The \$1000 check will be given to the student for defraying college expenses.

The applicant for this award should have completed one year of college preparatory chemistry, four years of mathematics, and one semester of college preparatory physics by high school graduation. The application, which is attached to these instructions, will be evaluated on merit by the LVACS HS Scholarship Committee. The completed four-part application (nomination letter from your chemistry teacher, the application form, transcript, and your essay) must be submitted by **April 14, 2023** and emailed to: lvacsfoundations@gmail.com. Please direct any questions about this award to: John Freeman at lvacsfoundations@gmail.com

Sincerely
John Freeman
Chair of the LVACS HS Scholarship Committee
220 W Pierce
Easton, PA 18042

Eligible Colleges for Awardees:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Albright College</i> | <i>Alvernia College</i> |
| <i>Cedar Crest College</i> | <i>DeSales University</i> |
| <i>East Stroudsburg University</i> | <i>Kutztown University</i> |
| <i>Lafayette College</i> | <i>Lehigh Carbon CC</i> |
| <i>Lehigh University</i> | <i>Moravian College</i> |
| <i>Muhlenberg College</i> | <i>Northampton County CC</i> |
| <i>Penn State-Berks</i> | <i>Penn State-Lehigh Valley</i> |
| <i>Penn State-Schuylkill Valley</i> | <i>Reading Area CC</i> |
| <i>Warren County CC</i> | |

2023 Foundation in Chemistry Award Nomination Form

(To be filled out by the student)

Student's Name: _____

Chemistry Teacher's Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

School Address: _____

I hereby _____ waive my right of access to this recommendation
_____ do not waive my right of access to this recommendation

(To be filled out by the teacher)

Please submit a letter of recommendation (as an attached letter) addressing such issues as the above student's knowledge of chemistry and the sciences, initiative, leadership potential, and potential as a student in the chemical sciences at college. Any additional information about the student's financial need would be appreciated; we will consider financial need in the event we judge more than one student to be equivalent on the basis of merit.

Deadline: April 14, 2023

Foundation in Chemistry Award Application Form

(To be filled out by the student)

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

e-mail address: _____

High School: _____

Names and addresses of your legal guardians:

College you will attend: _____

Proposed major degree program: _____

Please attach an official transcript with your most recent grades.

Please write and attach an one page essay (250 words maximum) on why you have chosen to study the chemical sciences in college.

Deadline: April 14, 2023

Application Check list

- Application form/this page
- Letter of recommendation
- Student Essay
- Student Transcript

The Lehigh Valley Section Award For Excellence in High School Teaching

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (LVACS) is delighted to announce the 2023 award for excellence in teaching. The award is designed to promote excellence in chemistry instruction at the high school level. Within the membership boundaries of the LVACS (Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Monroe, Schuylkill, and Carbon Counties in PA, and Warren County in NJ). We hope that you will identify an outstanding teacher at your school and support them for the award. The Application materials follow Please share them with a teacher or administrator that has shown excellence in the instruction of the chemical sciences.

The application should be completed and submitted by **APRIL 1, 2023** to *John Freeman* at LVACSTOTY@gmail.com as an attachment.

THE LEHIGH VALLEY SECTION AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING
AWARD PROGRAM FOR 2023

Purpose: To recognize, encourage, and stimulate outstanding teachers of high school chemistry in the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society

Nature: The Section Award consists of a cash award and a certificate. A meal at the meeting of the Lehigh Valley section of the ACS at which the award will be presented will be paid. A certificate will also be provided to the recipient's institution for display. The Winner's Application will be forwarded to the Mid Atlantic Regional ACS Division of Chemical Education Award for Excellence in High School Teaching for the following year.

Who May Nominate? Any individual, except a member of the award selection committee or currently enrolled student of the nominee, may submit one nomination or support form in any given year. Prior winners are members of the award selection committee for 10 years post their award.

Who is Eligible? The nominee must be actively engaged in the teaching of chemistry or a chemical science in a high school (grades 9-12) on at least a half-time basis in Berks Schuylkill Carbon Lehigh Northampton or Monroe counties in PA and Warren County NJ. The nomination should clearly demonstrate as many of the following attributes as possible.

- The quality of the nominee's teaching; unusually effective methods of presentation should be emphasized;
- The nominee's ability to challenge and inspire students;
- Extracurricular work in chemistry or a chemical science by the nominee, including science fairs, science clubs, and activities that stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and related sciences;
- A willingness to keep up-to-date in the field, as evidenced by the pursuit of a higher degree in chemistry or a chemical science, enrollment in refresher courses and summer institutes, regular attendance at scientific meetings, membership in professional organizations, and other means of self-improvement;
- Evidence of leadership and/or active involvement within the profession.

Required components of Nomination Portfolio: The Awards Committee will consider only **complete** nomination portfolios. A complete portfolio shall consist of:

- A Nomination Portfolio Check List (see Page 3), which shall serve as the Portfolio Cover Sheet;
- Nominator Information Form (see page 5);
- Nominee Information Form (see page 6);
- Nominator Recommendation of not more than 750 words submitted by the nominator according to the guidelines outlined on the Recommendation Form (see page 7);
- A current 2-page curriculum vitae or resume that includes a list of the nominee's honors, professional activities, and additional evidence of service to the profession; **NOTE: Limited to no more than two pages and the activities listed must have occurred within the past ten years.**
- A statement by the nominee of not more than 500 words that describes the nominee's teaching philosophy or commitment to the profession.
- At least one, but not more than three, letters of support. One letter, of no more than 400 words, must be from the teacher's current principal or supervisor. Additional letters of support, of no more than 400 words, may be sent by colleagues, members of the American Chemical Society, who are familiar with the nominee's achievements, or former students and parents of former students.
- **NOTE: Some commentary on student reaction to the work of the nominee in either the nominating letter or that of the current principal or supervisor is essential for a well-rounded portfolio.**

Submit nominations to **John Freeman**) by e-mail attachment to LVCSTOTY@gmail.com by **April 1st 2023**

***Please state award title in subject line, and the candidates name ***

THE ACS LEHIGH VALLEY LOCAL SECTION AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

2023 Nomination Portfolio Cover Sheet Check List

The following items are required components for a Nomination Portfolio. Please check each item contained in the portfolio. This list, submitted by the nominator, will serve as the cover to every submitted portfolio.

- Nominator Information Form;
- Nominee Information Form;
- Nominator Recommendation Letter of no more than 750 words send as email by Nominator with nominee's name in subject line.
- Nominee's Statement on Teaching Philosophy of no more than 500 words;
- Nominee's Current CV:
A curriculum vitae or resume that includes a list of the nominee's honors, professional activities, and additional evidence of service to the profession. This must be limited to no more than two pages and the activities listed must have occurred within the past five years.
- Letters of Support (no more than 400 words) sent separately as email by principal with nominees name in subject line:
One must be from the teacher's current principal or supervisor.
Up to two additional letters of support may be sent by colleagues, members of the American Chemical Society who are familiar with the nominee's achievements, or former students and parents of former students.

Nominator's

Name: _____

Date: _____

NOMINATION FORM

THE ACS LEHIGH VALLEY LOCAL SECTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

Deadline: *April 1, 2023*

Any individual, except a member of the award selection committee or current students of the nominee, may nominate or support *only* one nominee during any given award year. Submit to **JOHN FREEMAN** via e-mail at LVACSTOTY@gmail.com By April 1 2023 Please state award title in the subject line.

The-award will be announced at a Meeting of the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. Dinner will be arranged.

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Company or Institutional Affiliation: | |
| Present Position (Exact Title): | |
| Address: | |
| City: | |
| State and Zip: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Fax: | |
| e-mail: | |
| Relationship to Nominee | |

NOMINATION FORM

THE ACS LEHIGH VALLEY LOCAL SECTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

Deadline: *April 1, 2023*

NOMINEE INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Present Position (Exact Title): | |
| School: | |
| Address: | |
| City: | |
| State and Zip: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Fax: | |
| e-mail: | |
| Website: if appropriate | |

Give your current teaching assignment including course titles and grade levels. What is your involvement in extracurricular activities.

- On a separate sheet, provide a statement of not more than 500 words in which you present your teaching philosophy or otherwise describe your commitment to the profession.

NOMINATION FORM

THE ACS LEHIGH VALLEY LOCAL SECTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

Deadline: *APRIL 1, 2023*

RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT OF NOMINATOR

Submit a narrative statement of no more than 750 words that describes and comments upon the following:

- The quality of the nominee's teaching. Unusually effective methods of presentation should be emphasized;
 - **NOTE: Some commentary on student reaction to the work of the nominee in either the nominating letter or that of the current principal or supervisor is essential for a well-rounded portfolio.**
- The nominee's ability to challenge and inspire students;
- Extracurricular work in chemistry or a chemical science by the nominee, including science fairs, science clubs, and activities that stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and related sciences;
- A willingness to keep up-to-date in the field, as evidenced by the pursuit of a higher degree in chemistry or a chemical science, enrollment in refresher courses and summer institutes, regular attendance at scientific meetings, membership in professional organizations, and other means of self-improvement;
- Evidence of leadership and/or active involvement within the profession.