

## 2013 NEWSLETTERS

### 2014 Local Section Officer Election in Progress

Ballots for the 2014 Alabama Local Section Officer Election were mailed on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. The candidates for the indicated offices and the brief bio-sketches they prepared are as follows:

#### Chair-Elect

##### **Pat Balakrishnan (Miles College):**

P. Balakrishnan is an Associate Professor of chemistry at Miles College, Birmingham, AL. Dr. Balakrishnan's Ph.D. was from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. His post-doctoral experience was at Tulane University, Wayne State University and Georgia State University. His research interest includes synthesis of organic molecules containing Oxygen 17 Organic compounds and structure and property analysis of the products using Oxygen 17 NMR. (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) He has published 20 research papers in international journals and has presented several papers in ACS conferences. Dr. Balakrishnan has been teaching undergraduate students at Miles College in General Chemistry, Organic chemistry and Synthetic Organic Chemistry. He actively participates in advising students in core curriculum and major curriculum. He has won the recognition for "Best Teacher" award in HBCU-UP summer program at Miles College. His professional service includes serving the Educational Technology committee for the college as well as reviewing text books in organic chemistry. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Balakrishnan was a senior scientist and technical manager in chemical industry for the past fourteen years. He developed polyester tire cord adhesive used in tire industry while he was working at Rhodia Inc., specialty chemicals division.

#### Secretary

##### **Corey Johnson (Samford University):**

Corey Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Samford University. He received his B.S. in chemistry from East Central University and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma. He was then an American Heart Association research fellow with the in the Molecular Immunogenetics Program at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Prior to joining Samford University he was a Senior Associate Research Assistant in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas (Austin). Research projects in the Johnson lab are directed toward the functional characterization of enzymes. Kinetic analyses determine the order of addition of reactants to and release of products from the enzyme and can locate the slow steps along the reaction pathway. Another area of interest in the Johnson lab is developing new tools for

functionally characterizing enzymes inside cells and tissues. Outside of Samford, Dr. Johnson enjoys spending time with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Charlotte, running with his dog, Clementine, and playing the guitar. He is currently serving as Secretary of the Alabama Section of the ACS.

#### **Amanda Plain (Miles College)**

#### **Treasurer**

#### **Brian Gregory (Samford University)**

Brian Gregory is currently Professor and the John R. Sampey, Jr., Research Professor of Chemistry at Samford University. He obtained his B.S. (1985) and M.S. (1987) in chemistry from Furman University (under the direction of Lon Knight) and his Ph.D. (1992) in analytical chemistry from the University of Georgia (under the direction of John Stickney). Prior to venturing into academia, Brian worked as a postdoctoral research associate with Rich Dluhy (University of Georgia) and then with Therese Cotton and Walter Struve at Ames Laboratory-USDOE (Iowa State University). His research interests lie in the application of electrochemical, spectroscopic (IR, Raman) and mass spectrometric methods to interesting problems in surface science and thin films. To date, he has authored or co-authored 31 peer-reviewed journal and book publications, five peer-reviewed symposium proceedings, and a patent in these areas. Brian has been a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Samford University for the past 11 years. He has been an ACS member since 1992 and has been active as Treasurer of the Alabama Section of the ACS for the past four years.

#### **William Kittleman (Birmingham-Southern College)**

William is currently an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. He teaches Biochemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry labs and General Chemistry labs. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin working under Hung-wen (Ben) Liu. His Ph.D. work studied the characterization and mechanistic studies of an unusual flavoenzyme involved in isoprenoid biosynthesis in *Staphylococcus aureus*. He carried out postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan Medical School (Thomas E. Wilson, M.D./Ph.D. in the Department of Pathology) and at Michigan State University (R. Mark Worden/R. Michael Garavito collaborative laboratory and in the laboratory of Robert P. Hausinger). The majority of his postdoctoral work involved enzyme production and enzyme characterization studies. His current research focuses on developing potential therapeutic agents to inhibit enzymes responsible for the biosynthesis of iron-binding siderophores in *Staphylococcus aureus*. If successful, these agents could reduce iron-uptake in *S. aureus* limiting their growth and pathogenicity. He resides in Hoover, Alabama with his wife and two young children. His wife is a die-hard Michigan State fan and still works for the University's Alumni

Association traveling to major cities in the East and Southeast working with regional alumni clubs.

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### **Proposed Bylaw Revisions**

**We will be voting soon on some proposed Bylaw revisions.** Please see the [Bylaw revision document](#) to become familiar with these proposed changes. This document has been prepared to show the tracked changes.

National Chemistry Event -- October 26<sup>th</sup>

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### **Alabama Section ACS Events for October**

The Alabama Section of the ACS is holding a National Chemistry Week event at the **McWane Science Center in Birmingham on Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.** The event is designed to help promote chemistry education and the ACS in our community. We will do some hands-on activities with the kids in the protozone area at McWane and will also have demonstrations in the theater.

If you would like more information or are interested in helping at the event, please contact Audrey Brown at [abrown@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:abrown@lightfootlaw.com) or 205-949-6387. Besides having fun with your fellow ACS members and helping to promote chemistry, volunteers will receive free admission and parking at McWane.

Hope to see you there!

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**October 22, 2013, 6:30 pm**

### **“Chemistry of Cheese”**

Have you ever felt yourself wondering that you need to know more about the chemistry of cheese? What compounds give cheeses their unique flavor? How to make cheese? How well beer pairs with cheese? The Alabama Local Section is gathering at the Cahaba Brewing Company to answer these burning questions. The event is free to ACS members and one guest. This is not a full meal, so you may wish to eat a light snack before attending. The general public will also be invited (they will have to pay a modest fee), but through separate channels.

We will have good bread and 1 oz samples (per person) of each of the seven cheeses mentioned in the ACS webinar (recorded with Michael Tunick of the USDA):

- Gruyere
- Camembert
- Cheddar
- Parmesan
- Emmental
- Stilton

The bar will be open for those who wish to investigate pairing beer with cheese, although some discussion of that topic will ensue.

**[Cahaba Brewing Company](#)**  
**2616 3rd Ave S Birmingham, AL 35233**

Please make reservations on the [Doodle reservation site](#) or call Tracy Hamilton at 205-515-6935.

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### **Local Section Officer Nominations**

The following individuals have been nominated to serve as officers for the Alabama Section for 2014:

Secretary - Corey Johnson (Samford University) and Amanda Plain (Miles College)

Treasurer - Brian Gregory (Samford University) and William Kittleman (Birmingham-Southern College)

Chair-Elect - no nominees at this time

Additional nominations or questions may be made by sending an e-mail to [mcponder@samford.edu](mailto:mcponder@samford.edu) or by making a nomination at the October 22 meeting. The deadline for additional nominations is 12:00 midnight on October 22. Please consider making a nomination, especially for Chair-Elect.

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### **Councilor's Report from Indianapolis National ACS Meeting**

The full Alabama Local Section councilor's report from the 246th National ACS Meeting in Indianapolis, IN is available on the [website](#).

Don't forget to bookmark the Alabama Local Section website and check it weekly for the latest information on local section activities and ACS-related information.

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### **September Local Section Event Fall Picnic Hosted by Local Section**

The Alabama Section of the American Chemical Society will be hosting a picnic at Oak Mountain State Park on Saturday, September 14. All members and their families are invited. We have reserved the Blue Jay pavilion, which is behind the marina on Terrace Drive (see the website <http://www.alapark.com/oakmountain/PicnicArea/> for more information). We will have a potluck lunch beginning around 11:00 a.m. There is a \$3 per person admission fee to the park. Oak Mountain State Park offers a wide variety of activities that you may wish to take advantage of; see the website listed above for more information. We look forward to seeing you there.

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### **"Everyday Chemistry" Video Contest for Chemistry Ambassadors**

Are you a Chemistry Ambassador? Communicating the value of chemistry to the public is an important skill for every chemist, from undergrads in their first chemistry class, to freshly-minted Ph.D.s, to retired bench chemists. If you are a Chemistry Ambassador, help us show the public how chemistry is all around us by entering the ["Everyday Chemistry" video contest](#) with a short, fun video from one of these two categories:

- 1) **What is your favorite everyday chemistry tip?**
- 2) **The chemistry behind the stuff in our everyday lives.**

In 2 minutes or less, explain in layman's terms why lemon juice keeps cut fruit from browning, how solar panels work, or choose your own everyday subject to explain. Be creative and engaging! The videos should be able to entertain and educate people with little to no scientific background. For tips on speaking simply to non-scientists see [www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors](http://www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors).

Prizes include a trip to the 246<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting in Indianapolis, a ticket to C&EN's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event featuring Food Network star and renowned science communicator Alton Brown, and the winning video will be featured in C&EN and ACS's Bytesize Science YouTube channel.

Visit <http://cenm.ag/everydaychem> for more information, including video requirements and prize details. Submissions are due July 31, 2013.

*Sponsored by C&EN, the American Chemical Society Office of Public Affairs, the ACS Office of International Activities and ACS President Marinda Wu.*

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## **MAY LOCAL SECTION AWARDS PROGRAM MEETING**

Please join us at Nabeel's of Homewood at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, to honor our Chemistry Olympiad students, our 50- and 60-year members, and the Alabama Section High School Teacher of the Year.

**The Chemistry Olympiad students are:** Jagger Alexander, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate; Chris Brim, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate; William Cook, The Altamont School; William Heath, Tuscaloosa Academy; Graham Rutledge, The Altamont School; Ani Sengar, Gadsden City High School; and Christine Zheng, Indian Springs School.

**50- and 60- year Local Section ACS members:** Ruby James (50 years), Larry Krannich (50 years), and Robert Newman (60 years).

**Our Teacher of the Year is:** Janis Mabry at Tuscaloosa County High School.

**The Awards Program Speaker** will be Dr. Laura Busenlehner from the University of Alabama. Her talk is titled "**Metals and Cancer: The Role of DNA Repair**". Please visit <http://bama.ua.edu/~lsbusenlehner/> for details on the research being carried out in her lab.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Laura Busenlehner is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Alabama since 2007. She got her B.S. in Biochemistry at the rival university in Auburn, AL, in 1997, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Biophysics at Texas A&M in 2003 with Prof. David P. Giedroc. She then did a postdoc from 2003 to 2007 at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with Prof. Richard Armstrong as her advisor.

The dinner is \$15 for all attendees, except for honorees and their guests and families. Please make reservations by **noon on Friday, May 3rd**, on the [Doodle reservation site](#) or call Tracy Hamilton at 205-515-6935.

Need directions to the meeting? Nabeel's address is 1706 Oxmoor Road Homewood, AL 35209 ([Google Maps](#)).

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## **COUNCILOR'S REPORT**

The councilor's report from the Spring 2013, New Orleans National Meeting can be accessed from the [Councilor Report Page](#).

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## **ALABAMA LOCAL SECTION CELEBRATED EARTH DAY**

The Alabama Local Section celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 20th, at the McWane Science Center. Pictures of the event are available at [this site](#). A big thank you to all who helped to make this a very successful event.

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## **CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**

The Alabama Section of the ACS is holding a Chemists Celebrate Earth Day event at the McWane Science Center in Birmingham on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The event is designed to help promote chemistry education and the ACS in our community. We will have several recycling-themed activities to do with the visitors at McWane.

If you would like more information or are interested in helping at the event, please contact Audrey Brown at [abrown@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:abrown@lightfootlaw.com) or 205-949-6387.

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## **MARCH LOCAL SECTION MEETING**

**Date:** March 13, 2013

**Event:** Brewing Chemistry, Avondale Brewery tour, and Saws BBQ

**Time:** 6:00 pm social hour, 7:00 pm meal, 7:30 pm talk, 8:00 pm tour

**Location:** Avondale Brewing, 201 41st Street South, Birmingham, AL in the upstairs room (separate stair access on the north side of the building)

Note: approaching from the north on 41<sup>st</sup> St can get blocked by a stationary train, so please come from east or west down one of the south Aves

**Cost:** \$5 at the door. If you are under 30, we will provide a wristband which will allow you to purchase beer without having to show ID more than once upstairs.

**RSVP:** Please go to the [Doodle poll](#) by noon Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, to indicate your attendance at this even so we can plan accordingly.

The presentation will discuss the history of brewing, followed by a description of beers which have been reconstructed from analysis of pottery remains. The chemical processes at each step are discussed briefly for the chemists in the audience, including some emphasis on hop chemistry. The talk will be capped off by a short list of important flavor compounds to look for in the Avondale beers. The description of how to brew beer step by step will be carried out during a tour of the Avondale Brewery.

Description of their year-round beers are at <http://www.avondalebrewing.com/brews/flagship/>

Their seasonal beers are described at <http://www.avondalebrewing.com/brews/seasonals/>

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## KOSOLAPOFF AWARD LECTURE

Each year, the Auburn Local Section of the ACS and Auburn University co-sponsor the Kosolapoff Award, which is given to an internationally renowned chemist. This year's recipient is one of the co-winners of the 2010 Nobel Prize, Ei-ichi Negishi of Purdue University.

On April 8, 2013, Prof. Negishi will give a talk to the public entitled "*Magical Power of d-Block Transition Metals in Organic Synthesis.*" The talk will take place at approximately 8:00 PM in the Science Center Auditorium on Auburn University's campus. All members of the chemistry-loving public are welcome to attend.

To learn more about Dr. Negishi's research, you can visit his webpage at: <http://www.chem.purdue.edu/people/faculty/faculty.asp?itemID=52>

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## **Job Opening for an Analytical Chemist**

Speed Laboratory , in Buford, GA, <http://speedlaboratory.net>, has a full-time Analytical Chemist position open for immediate filling. See the full position [announcement](#) for details and contact information.

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## **Undergraduate Student Travel Grants Available for 2013 Spring National Meeting**

If you are an undergraduate student, have submitted an abstract for a presentation, and will be presenting a paper or poster at the 2013 Spring National Meeting in New Orleans, LA, you are eligible to apply for a travel grant. Complete and submit the travel award application on the [Awards page](#). The application deadline is 8 weeks (**February 10, 2013**) prior to the beginning of the national meeting (April 7-11, 2013).

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