

2014 NEWSLETTERS

September 2014 Local Section Meeting

When and Where: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6 PM at Cahaba Brewing, 2616 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35233

Our Speaker:

Bob Bates (Univ. Florida), Professor Emeritus, Food Science & Human Nutrition
“The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing”

Cost: \$5 Members, \$15 non-members, Students Free

Must be 21 to drink alcohol

BBQ dinner and 1 Beverage will be provided.

Please invite your students and any other people you think might be interested!

RSVP here <http://doodle.com/ue9c4pixykyq8xt4>

Councilor's Report from Fall 2014 National ACS Meeting

Our Councilor, Tracy Hamilton, has submitted his [report](#) from his attendance at the Fall 2014 National ACS Meeting in San Francisco

2014 Awards Banquet Meeting

Please join us at Nabeel's of Homewood at 6:30 pm Tuesday, May 13th to honor our Chemistry Olympiad students and Local Section Teacher of the Year.

The Chemistry Olympiad students are: Lynn Han, Jin Lu, Robert Denniston, William Tang, Ryan Cook, Hannah Noah, Ruchir Rastogi, Darrell Butler, Hunter McClung and Samuel Zhu.

The Awards Program Speaker will be Dr. Mary Long, a UAB grad who went from pharmacokinetics research to working for commercial drug testing labs. She now has her own business, developing and making kits for mass spec metabolite analysis.

The dinner is \$15 for all attendees, except for honorees and their guests and families. Please make reservations by Monday noon, May 12th, 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. Please see [Nabeel's Google Maps Link](#) .

The Spring 2014 Councilors Report from the Dallas National Meeting has been [posted](#).

2013 NEWSLETTERS

2014 Local Section Officer Election in Progress

Ballots for the 2014 Alabama Local Section Officer Election were mailed on Friday, November 8th. 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.