



American Chemical Society

Nebraska Section Newsletter

<http://nebraskaacs.nebrwesleyan.edu/>

MAY 2009

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Update on days past ...

January– We elected new officers (listed on the left) who have been working hard these past five months to bring you interesting speakers and exciting events. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you better!

February– Mary Virginia Orna visited Doane College to speak about “Doing Chemistry at the Art/ Archeological Interface”. Her talk included her adventures to Israel to analyze pigments from ancient artifacts and methods of archaeological chemistry to such famous artifacts as the forgeries of Han van Meegeran. Over 30 people attended! This year, Mary Virginia Orna received the Award for Volunteer Service from the American Chemical Society.

March– The section hosted a Science Café at Soaring Wings Vineyard with special guest, Dr. Robert Bates, an expert on wine making in non-traditional wine states. Approximately 20 people attended including several area winemakers and students. We also took the opportunity to honor Dr. Berwyn Jones for 50 years of being an ACS member (also recognized in the April 20, 2009 issue of C&EN).

April– Dr. Lisa Balbes visited Hastings College to talk about non-traditional careers in Chemistry. She discussed typical tasks, education or training requirements, and personal characteristics that make for a successful career in each field, illustrated with specific examples. Over 50 people attended this dinner and speaker event, consisting primarily of students from Nebraska colleges.

May– This past fall, Dr. Andrea Holmes received an Innovative Project Grant for the Section. With funds from this grant, she hosted a Ropes Challenge Course and kids chemistry fun day on May 2, 2009 for local section and community members. Beautiful weather provided a great backdrop for the ropes course and the kids had a great time learning about chemistry and getting their hands “dirty”. See pictures below:



Pictures from left to right: Kerry Lucas, Andrea Holmes and Nathanael Fackler work to complete one of the ropes activities with the help of the Doane College facilitators; Noah Fackler gets his hands “dirty” with silly putty; Nathanael, Kerry, and Andrea complete a team building activity; Cale and Karli Symonsbergen have fun making “invisible” pictures.

Demographics of Nebraska Local Section

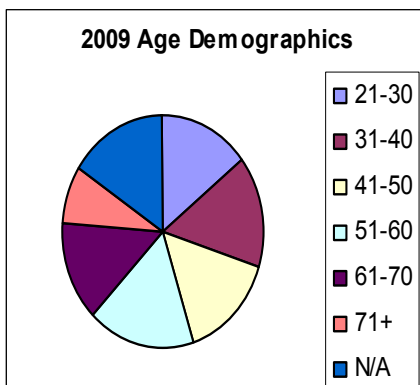


Listed are various data based on the most current roster for our section. I hope you find the information useful.

Total number in section: 251

Male: 173; Female: 55; N/A: 23

Most members live/work in: Lincoln (73%), Kearny (6%), Columbus (2%), Hastings (2%), Crete (2%), or Seward (1%).



Most members claim this as their "Interest Field": 16% Agriculture and Food Chem.; 16% Nuclear Chem. and Technology; 10% Cellulose and Renewable Materials; 10% Analytical Chem.; 8% Petroleum Chem.; 6% Industrial and Engineering Chem.

~84% of the section receives their newsletter and other information by email only.

Charter Year for the Nebraska Section: 1895 (one of the oldest sections!)

The Nebraska Section region includes the entire state of Nebraska except for the 6 counties around Omaha (they have their own section).

Upcoming Event: Leadership Development Course

Building Skills, Creating Leaders-

The ACS Leadership Development System is a comprehensive leadership curriculum that provides you with practical courses to advance your career, help you to be more effective in your position, and equip you with tools to more effectively lead ACS volunteer initiatives.

The suite of courses provides you with an opportunity to take courses

in a face-to-face setting as well as online (24/7).

The Nebraska Section will be offering the Fostering Innovation Course on August 10, 2009 at Doane College. This is a four-hour, face-to-face course focused on how to generate ideas and stimulate innovative thinking. More details can be found at www.acs.org/leaderdevelopment.

The cost is \$150 for members and \$300 for non-members. Scholarships are available to cover the cost of the entire course! If interested contact Kerry Lucas at kerry.lucas@doane.edu



Project SEED– The local section is helping to sponsor two Project SEED students at Doane College. They will be working with Dr. Erin Wilson on a bone mineralization project and Dr. Kerry Lucas on understanding the valine degradation pathway in plants. Project SEED was established in 1968 to help economically disadvantaged high school students expand their education and career outlook. The program provides opportunities for students who historically lack exposure to scientific careers to spend a summer conducting research with a scientist in academic, industry, and government research laboratories. Students receive a fellowship award for their efforts and a chance to receive a SEED college scholarship.

What are you doing in your community? If your company, school, or city is doing some neat chemistry outreach activities, honoring individuals in chemistry, or doing just about anything else related to the Section or to chemistry, we want to hear about it!

Please email Kerry Lucas at kerry.lucas@doane.edu to be put in the newsletter or on the website.

Midwest Regional Meeting 2009 Preview

Submit your abstract now for the [44th ACS Midwest Regional Meeting](#) (MWRM), Oct. 21-24, Iowa City, IA. MWRM 2009 takes place during [National Chemistry Week 2009](#), and the MWRM 2009 program reflects this year's NCW theme: "Chemistry, It's Elemental: Health, Energy, Environment." Symposia planned for MWRM 2009 include Nanoscience and Nanotechnology: Environmental and Health Aspects; Innovative Chemistry for the Enhancement and Production of Energy; Making and Breaking Bonds with Transition Metals; Organo-Phosphorous Chemistry; Advances in Synthesis; Advances in Photopolymerization; and Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate, to name a few. The [full list of symposia](#) can be found on the MWRM 2009 web site, along with links for [online abstract submittal](#), [discounted hotel rates](#), [awards](#), [events](#), [meeting organizers](#), and much more.

Check the [ACS Regional Meetings web site](#) for more details about MWRM 2009 and the other three regional meetings scheduled for this fall.

The next newsletter will probably be coming out in late summer or early fall. Be looking for details on the Leadership Development Course coming soon!

ACS offers special benefits for unemployed members

During these tough economic times it's more important than ever to belong to the American Chemical Society. Unemployed members can tap into a host of valuable benefits and services that help them get back in the workforce. And, members in good standing may qualify for an [unemployed member dues waiver](#), allowing them to renew their memberships and keep their member benefits at [no cost](#). Contact ACS at service@acs.org, 800-333-9511 or 614-447-3671 for complete details.

Other valuable benefits that help ACS member get back in the workforce include:

- [Free](#) registration at ACS National Meetings and registration fees at Regional Meetings of just \$25. Meetings offer ACS Career Fairs with on-site interviews.
- Special discounts for ACS/Harvard courses, ACS ProSpectives and Short Courses, and the ACS Leadership Development System.
- Membership in the ACS Network, your online resource to connect and communicate with friends, colleagues, and potential employers
- Free Guidance from ACS Career Consultants – ACS mentors offer resume reviews, job search strategies, and interview tips that make you stand out from the rest.
- Free access to InterviewStream, an online tool that will sharpen your interview skills
- Members-only access to the ACS Salary comparator.
- And more!

Contact ACS customer service today at service@acs.org, 800-333-9511 or 614-447-3671 today and let us know how we can help.