

March 2015 Newsletter

- I “Engineering Microalgae for Biofuel Production” on Thursday, March 19 in Los Alamos
- II ACS National Award to Jaqueline Kiplinger at LANL
- III New Mexico State Science & Engineering Fair
- IV ACS Webinars – an archive for our Members
- V New Mexico Journal of Science – A chemistry topic?
- VI Local Section Officers
- VII Control those ACS e-mail messages
- VIII Changes of Address

I. “Engineering Microalgae for Biofuel Production” on Thursday, March 19 in Los Alamos

Our Local Section will be co-hosting this month’s “Science on Tap” event in Los Alamos:

5:30 pm on Thursday, March 19, 2015 @ the UnQuarked Wine Room
Amanda Barry, LANL Bioenergy and Biome Sciences Group
“Engineering Microalgae for Biofuel Production”

Amanda Barry, research scientist at LANL, will discuss engineering microalgae for biofuel production. Concerns about high energy prices, finite fossil fuel reserves, rising atmospheric CO₂ levels, and energy security have put focus on microalgae as a renewable domestic fuel source. The optimization of microalgae for biomass and lipid production in a biofuel production pond environment would be highly desirable. In this talk, Barry will focus on the development of strain-specific molecular toolboxes in order to engineer algae for optimized biofuel production.

This event will be held at the UnQuarked Wine Room (145 Central Park Square) in Los Alamos (<http://www.unquarkedwine.com/>). Our Local Section will be providing a limited number of complimentary glass of wine / non-alcoholic drink tickets to event attendees. As well there will be a limited quantity of complimentary appetizers available. Additional wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and appetizers / food choices will be available for purchase by attendees.

The “Science On Tap” series is sponsored by the Los Alamos Creative District and occurs on the third Thursday of every month and is organized by the Bradbury Science Museum. Additional information on this and other “On Tap” series is available through the Los Alamos Creative District website (<http://www.creativelosalamos.com/>) and the Bradbury Science Museum website (<http://www.lanl.gov/museum/index.shtml>).

The next “Science On Tap” event our Local Section will be co-hosting will be:

Thursday, May 21, 2015 @ the UnQuarked Wine Room
Nina Lanza, LANL Space and Remote Sensing Group
“ChemCam and Zapping Rocks on Mars”

II. ACS National Award to Jaqueline Kiplinger at LANL

Jaqueline L. Kiplinger, a senior scientist and laboratory Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), will be recognized at the upcoming Denver national meeting with the F. Albert Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry.

As noted in the C&EN announcement of her award, Some of Kiplinger’s most-cited work involves the synthesis of uranium and thorium ketimide complexes, which have added a new structural motif to actinide chemistry. Her early data on the complexes were suggestive of electronic delocalization throughout the nitrogen-metal-nitrogen core and indicated that the f electrons in organoactinide complexes, in addition to d electrons, might be far more involved in chemical bonding and reactivity than previously thought. Kiplinger’s subsequent work on the compounds and on lanthanide-actinide complexes nailed down the details of f-electron delocalization and multimetallic f-f electronic communication.

Kiplinger, 47, received a B.S. degree from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, in 1990, and a Ph.D. degree in organometallic fluorocarbon chemistry from the University of Utah in 1996. After conducting postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley, she joined the staff at LANL in 1999.

Among her other honors, Kiplinger is an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her innovative methods for preparing actinide materials have earned two R&D 100 Awards and two National Nuclear Security Administration Best-in-Class Pollution Prevention Awards. Furthermore, Kiplinger’s mentoring of students and postdocs has been recognized with LANL’s Student Distinguished Mentor Award, STAR Award, and Postdoc Distinguished Mentor Award.

III. New Mexico State Science & Engineering Fair

Our Local Section will be sponsoring the Chemistry category at the New Mexico State Science & Engineering Fair on the New Mexico Tech campus (March 27-28, 2015). We additionally sponsor three special awards for chemistry projects. As well our Local Section assists the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and the New Mexico Science Teachers Association in the events at the Fair that they organize for parents and sponsors of the participants. More information on the Fair is available at the following URL:

<http://infohost.nmt.edu/~science/fair/>

IV. ACS Webinars – an archive for our Members

Thanks to those who joined us on a snowy late afternoon in Los Alamos last month for the ACS “Chemistry on the Silver Screen” webinar. For those that were unable to attend the ACS has an archive of past ACS Webinars that is accessible to our Members at the following URL:

<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/events.html>

The above webinar is not yet among the listed choices in the archive but there are many other interesting past titles that are available.

V. New Mexico Journal of Science – A chemistry topic?

Our Local Section is discussing the potential for some collaborative activities with the New Mexico Academy of Science (NMAS): <http://www.nmas.org/>

A continuing activity of NMAS is the publication of an annual volume of the *New Mexico Journal of Science* on a topical theme. Some past topics include “Climate Change and New Mexico's Water Resources” and “Energy in the Southwest”.

As part of our discussions, NMAS has indicated an interest in publishing a forthcoming annual edition on a chemistry topic. Please feel free to let us know of any possible such chemistry topics that we can work with NMAS on.

VI. Local Section Officers

The following are our 2015 Local Section Officers. Please feel free to contact them for information or suggestions regarding the Local Section or ACS in general.

Position	Name	E-mail
Chair	Donivan Porterfield (LANL)	dporterfield@lanl.gov
Chair-Elect	Karen Schultz Paige (LANL)	ksp@lanl.gov
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	Rudolph Magyar (SNL)	rjmagya@sandia.gov

VII. Control those ACS e-mail messages

Through the ACS web page you can unsubscribe or even subscribe to more e-mail messages from Society offices regarding various activities and membership benefits. Once you have logged into the ACS web site using your member information you will notice a small link on top right hand that is labeled as “My Account”. Clicking the “My Account” will open up a page with a number of additional links among which you will find “Manage Email Subscriptions”. Clicking that link will present a web page through which you can control your receipt of a number of different Society offices e-mail messages.

VIII. Changes of Address

The distribution of our Local Section newsletter is dependent on accurate e-mail and US mail addresses being supplied to the ACS. Address changes can be submitted to ACS through the following means: service@acs.org, (800) 227-5558, or logging in to www.acs.org.