

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 36 No. 6

**JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER TOPICS**

- Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony
- Connect with Chemists
- Congratulations, David!
- Win a Trip to San Francisco in August 2014
- 2014 Outstanding High School Chemistry Students
- New Members for May
- Outreach Event: Fall ACS Nation Meeting and Exposition

## Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Ean Warren, Chair



The Section's summer event is termed a "picnic" but it is quite a bit more. First, it is opportunity to recognize and honor our long-time ACS members. For their entire careers, our members have been at the forefront of scientific discovery, working in labs, classrooms, and offices around the Bay Area and beyond. Their work has contributed to putting humans on the moon, the integrated circuit in the PC, genetic cloning for medical advances, and so much more. They work in clean rooms, wet rooms, and dark rooms; on the Bay's mudflats, on planes, and aboard ships; in lecture halls and hallways; in offices and boardrooms. We invite our 50-, 60-, 65-, and 70-year members to the summer picnic to honor these pioneers of their fields. The pic-

nic gives them an opportunity to tell us about their accomplishments in their chemistry careers and for us to hear their stories. The event makes for an interesting afternoon of personal successes and historical perspectives.

Another event occurring at the picnic is the wine tasting. This year's wine is from Hatcher Winery ([www.hatcherwinery.com/](http://www.hatcherwinery.com/)). Located in Murphys, California, Hatcher has been making wine for 12 years. Hatcher sells several different varieties of white and red wine. We expect to have at least two varieties, one red, one white, at the picnic. Our picnic is an opportunity to learn about, discuss, and experience new wines.

Finally, the picnic provides us the opportunity to meet new people and see old friends. A number of years ago, I met a woman who volunteered to help me with field work in Lake Tahoe. I couldn't have done my research there without her assistance. I personally enjoy talking to the attendees about their research and lives in the Bay Area.

The "picnic" will be on Saturday, July 19. *continued on next page*

### Connect with Chemists

Meet fellow, local chemists for an early morning coffee  
Look for Ean at a table with CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> molecular models

**Tuesday, June 10th at 7 a.m.**  
Peet's Coffee

102 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

**Thursday, June 12th at 7 a.m.**  
La Boulange

151 University Avenue, Palo Alto

## RESERVATION FORM

### Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Stanford University – Saturday, July 19, 2014    Deadline for Reservations – Wednesday, July 16, 2014

**4:00 p.m. Wine Tasting, 5:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Awards**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Please list all names so we can make a name tag for every member of your family, including children.

Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults at \$17.00 ..... x \$17.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children (age 4-12) at \$5.00, kids 3 and under free ..... x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Santa Clara Valley Section – ACS

Mail check and reservation form to: Karl Marhenke, 1710 Wilshire Drive, Aptos, CA 95003-2836

Please check if you can volunteer:     I can help set-up     I can help clean-up

### Chair's Message, continued from front page

A reservation form is below and on our section's website. Remember, this is our one meeting where you have to send a payment with your reservation. The cost, however, will be the same as it was last year: \$17 for adults, \$5 for kids 4-12, kids 3 and under free. We'll need the reservation by Wednesday, July 16, 2014. I hope you can join us. I'd love to talk to you!

Just to see who's reading my messages, I'll buy the first person to contact me a coffee or tea at one of this month's Connect with Chemist. (See the side bar for dates and locations.) I look forward to meeting you!

## Congratulations, David!



Quoting David, he is "Hooked on chemistry"!

David Wang is a junior at Monta Vista High School and has qualified as a finalist for the 2014 International Chemistry Olympiad. He is one of the country's top 20 high school students who will be attending a study camp at the Air Force Academy in June. After 2 weeks of some serious classes and lab sessions, those students will undergo more exams to determine the final 4 who will represent the U.S. in Hanoi in July.

David is currently taking AP Chemistry from Ms. Kavita Gupta. He spoke highly of the help and encouragement that she gave him throughout the year. David also spoke highly of the help Stephen Ting gave him last year in preparing for the qualifying exams. Following Stephen's lead, David organized a study group at the high school specifically for students interested in the Olympiad. It apparently paid off!

You have heard of garage startups. Well, David is so interested in chemistry that he has his own "garage lab"! This is reminiscent of several great chemists of the past – such as Joseph Priestley or Charles Martin Hall! Although college is over a year away, he is already planning to major in chemistry!

On a more personal note, David has interests other than chemistry. He is musical! He is a member of the school choir and an accapella group called Tensync. Good luck in Colorado, David. We are pulling for you!

## Win a Trip to San Francisco in August 2014

How could great science communication win you a trip to San Francisco in August 2014? Do you love talking about chemistry? Are you burning to entertain non-scientists about your cool research? Are you an undergraduate or graduate student (or 2014 alum), postdoc, or pre-tenure faculty member at a U.S. academic institution and an ACS Member? Then check out [www.acs.org/chemchamps](http://www.acs.org/chemchamps) to learn how a 2-3 min YouTube video could be all that stands between you right now and a free trip to the beginning of the ACS Fall National Meeting in San Francisco.

We look forward to seeing some great videos! But hurry – submissions are due by June 6! For more information, read about Chemistry Champions in C&EN, or email [chemchamps@acs.org](mailto:chemchamps@acs.org). Follow Chemistry Champions @AmerChemSociety #chemchamps. Chemistry Champions is a pilot in 2014 under Chemistry Ambassadors [www.facebook.com/ChemistryAmbassadors](http://www.facebook.com/ChemistryAmbassadors)

## 2014 Outstanding High School Chemistry Students

On April 26th, fifteen of Silicon Valley's top chemistry students met at Las Positas College in Livermore to compete in the national testing for the 2014 International Chemistry Olympiad. We joined fifteen students from the California Section for a grueling day of exams.

The students gave up a beautiful Saturday to spend 6 hours indoors working on problem sets, multiple-choice questions, and the 'killer' lab problems.

This year 26 high schools and over 400 students participated in the local standardized exam at their high schools. The top scorers then represented our section in the national exam. Some schools gave the local exam to all of their AP or Honors chemistry classes as a warmup for the AP exam that is given in May. Other schools administer it only to interested students. The ACS national exam, given on the 26th, was sent to national ACS for the ACS Olympic committee to grade. The national committee, composed of about 40 professors and teachers, has over 1,000 exams to grade and compare!

Special thanks goes to George Lechner, Dave Parker, Howard Peters, and Bruce Raby for their help proctoring or organizing the sections' activity this year.

A very special thank you goes to the high school teachers who make it possible for their students to participate. They gave up personal and classroom time to communicate the program, organize the testing and grade the local exams.

The Santa Clara Valley outstanding high school chemistry students and their teachers are:

Carlmont High School – *Nicholas Hsu – Felix Guzman*

Gunn High School – *Audrey Cheng and Justin Folk – Elana Zizmor*

Harker School – *Kacey Fang and Varun Mohan – Robbie Korin*

Lynbrook High School – *Tony Jiang and Steven Hao – Roy Rocklin*

Monta Vista High School – *David Wang and Edward Wang – Kavita Gupta*

Palo Alto High School – *Ken Chen and Nicolas Quach – Carolina Sylvestri*

Saratoga High School – *Yuhan Yang – Kathy Nakamatsu*

St. Francis High School – *Timothy Tsang – Jennifer Thomas*

Stanford Online High School – *Augustine Chemparathy and Daniel Wallick – Kalee Tock*

Additional high schools that participated in the local exam were: Archbishop Mitty, Bellarmine, Cupertino, Fremont, Hillsdale, King's Academy, Los Altos, Live Oak Academy, Los Gatos, Menlo School, Mercy (Burlingame), Mount Pleasant, Oak Grove, Piedmont Hills, Milpitas, San Mateo, and the School for Independent Learners. Thank you everyone!

If you want to match wits with the students, go to the following ACS website (and no peeking at the answers!) for the 2014 local and national exams: [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html)

## Chemistry Quiz

What element, present in higher concentrations in meteorites than in the earth's crust, was the basis for the Alvarez hypothesis explaining the extinction of the dinosaurs?

The answer to last month's chemistry quiz was: a banana

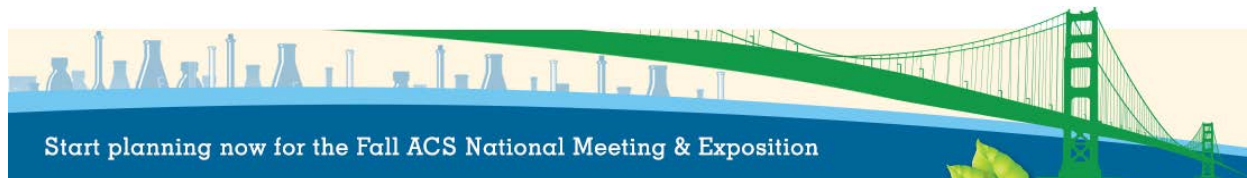
## New Members for May

Dr. Murtaza F. Alibhai  
Chris Bergstrom  
Andy Blasband  
Dustin Bringley  
Kyle Houston Broach  
Dr. Sean P. Brown  
Michael Bruner  
Mengyang Cai  
Malika D. Carter

Mark S. Chen  
Matthew Curtis  
Dr. Javier De Vicente  
Dr. Eric J. Espinosa  
Samuel Fleischman  
Dr. Tarra E. Fuchs-Knotts  
Crystal Y. Gonzalez  
Brian Kauffman  
Dr. Daniel Koch

Dr. Ralph Erik Kornbrekke  
Christopher Kwoka  
Julia Lee  
Dr. Lee Lior-Hoffmann  
Christopher E. Melton  
Tatiana Y. Morante-Catacora  
Qunxiang Ong  
Rachel Parke-Houben  
B Polata

Maricela Prado  
John Ramphal  
Joerg Rockenberger  
Brett Rosen  
Dr. Vijay Singh  
James Snyder Jr.  
Tiffany Suekama  
Lloyd Tran  
Cam-Van T. Vo

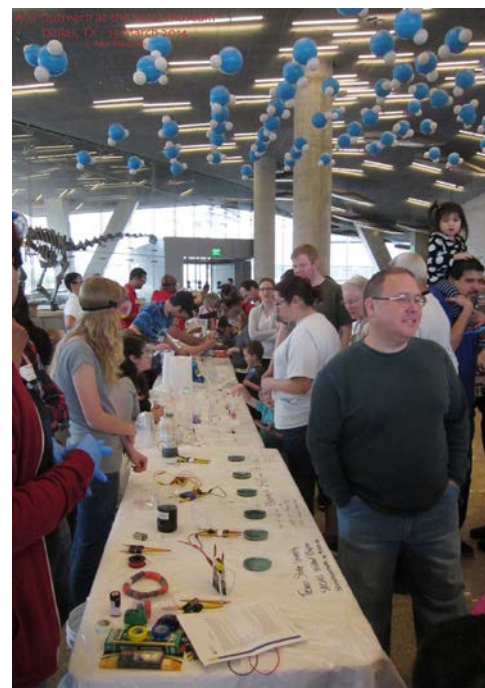


221 Fourth Street  
San Francisco CA 94103

Co-sponsored by the ACS Committee on  
Community Activities (CCA) and the ACS  
Office of Community Affairs (OCA)

**Science is FUN!  
Public Outreach  
Event  
Children's  
Creativity Museum  
(adjacent to  
Moscone Center  
South)  
Saturday  
August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
10 AM to 2 PM**

Bring the whole family, and especially young children, to Moscone Center for a day of science fun and discovery at one of SF's favorite venues for kids.



Volunteers Needed: Contact Alex Madonik if you would like to help out with hands-on activities:

[alexmadonik@sonic.net](mailto:alexmadonik@sonic.net) 510-872-0528



SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
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<http://www.scvacs.org>

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is published on our web site, sign up at:  
<http://www.scvacs.org/newsletter/>

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

### 2014 Section Officers

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Past Chair	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
Secretary	Karl Marhenke	831-688-4959	karlmar@armory.com
Treasurer	Ihab Darwish	650-594-1654	darwishis@yahoo.com

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2014-2016	Herb Silber	408-924-4954	hbsilber@science.sjsu.edu

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2014-2016	Vacant		

### Newsletter

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### ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director:	Liang Cao	liang.cao@aol.com
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## FUTURE MEETINGS

- Jun 10** Café Scientifique Silicon Valley  
“Can Hydraulic Fracturing Provide  
a Bridge to a Green Energy Future?”  
Mark Zoback  
[www.sri.com/newsroom/events/cafe-scientifique-silicon-valley-sri-can-hydraulic-fracturing-provide-bridge-green-e](http://www.sri.com/newsroom/events/cafe-scientifique-silicon-valley-sri-can-hydraulic-fracturing-provide-bridge-green-e)
- Jun 10** Connect With Chemists  
Meet Fellow Bay Area Chemists  
Peet's Coffee, South San Francisco
- Jun 12** Connect With Chemists  
Meet Fellow Bay Area Chemists  
La Boulange, Palo Alto
- Jun 17-19** Annual Green Chemistry and  
Engineering Conference  
North Bethesda, MD  
[www.gcande.org](http://www.gcande.org)
- Jun 23-27** National Organic Chemistry  
Symposium  
Seattle, WA
- Jul 19** Annual Wine Tasting, Picnic  
and Awards Ceremony  
Stanford Chemistry Department  
Stanford, CA
- Aug 10-14** 248th American Chemical Society  
National Meeting  
San Francisco, CA