

## **POLY – Councilor’s Report**

Over 16,000 members attended the ACS meeting in New Orleans. At the ACS Council meeting, our own Frank Blum was announced to be among the candidates for ACS Director-at-Large, along with Lee Latimer, Ingrid Montes and Angela Peters. Good luck in the election, Frank! Council actions at the New Orleans meeting include amendments to the ACS Bylaws. The Council approved the Petition on the Composition of Society Committees, which changes the requirement for Councilors form at least a two-thirds majority and removes the restriction that the Chair and Vice-Chair must be Councilors. The Petition for Election of Committee Chairs, which would allow the voting members of all ACS committees to select their own Chairs, failed to gain Council approval. The Council also voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance to set the 2019 member dues at the fully escalated rate of \$175. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed formula for allocating dues funds to divisions, recommended by the Committee on Divisional Activities, was recommitted to the committee. The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Ethics be continued; and the committees on Publications and on Younger Chemists be continued contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

The ACS ended 2017 with just over 150,000 members, representing the sixth straight year of declining membership. The Committee on Membership Affairs is committed to working with Council, the Board of Directors, the Committee on Budget and Finance, ACS staff, and other stakeholders to halt this trend and return ACS to a growing and engaged membership. In other news, the Committee on Budget and Finance reported that ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$28.6 million, which was \$4.8 million higher than 2016. Total revenues were \$553.1 million, increasing 5.0% or \$26.4 million over 2016. Expenses ended the year at \$524.5 million, which was \$21.6 million or 4.3% higher than prior year. This was attributable to strong performance from the Society’s Information Service units (CAS and ACS Publications) and a continued emphasis on expense management across the ACS.

Divisional Activities Committee (Mary Ann Meador): The DAC will review the proposed allocation formula and try to provide guidance on the effect of the new formulation on divisions prior to putting it back on the ballot for the Council Meeting in Boston. The proposal moves some of the allocation from performance at national meetings to regional and international meetings. The DAC also continues to work with ACS staff to improve the visibility of divisions on the ACS website and get help in member recruitment. One of the outcomes is that new members can now choose three divisions to join for free in their first year of membership. Committee on Patents and Related Matters (Joe Mabry): In addition to discussing legislation, regulation, and technology-transfer, CPRM discussed ACS Position Statements and a recent decision by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Helsinn Healthcare S.A. v. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., which is now on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Committee considered sending to the Board of Directors a recommendation that the ACS prepare and file an amicus (“friend of the court”) brief, advocating the court’s acceptance of the case, which is necessary to resolve an important issue relating to the scope of the “on sale” bar to patentability under the 2011 America Invents Act (AIA) and whether the AIA eliminated secret prior art. Discussions will continue in the coming weeks. (Note: The committee name will soon become the Intellectual Property Committee) Division

## Membership Committee Report

Membership in the POLY Division remains strong. In addition to our activities at the national meeting we continue to strive for new ways to reach members and provide benefits. In the past year the membership committee supported local section meetings in Pittsburgh and Detroit through an Innovative Projects Grant from ACS. If you are interested in getting your local section more involved with POLY, please contact either Member- At-Large, Kevin Cavicchi (kac58@uakron.edu), or the Membership Chair, Brent Sumerlin (sumerlin@chem.ufl.edu), for more information. The University of Michigan's POLY/PMSE student chapter was named best chapter for 2017. The chapter currently has 93 members participating in a variety of activities, including seminar series, polymer outreach to the Detroit public schools, and new government/industry seminars that include both a presentation from an outside speaker and short formal presentations from the students to drive twoway conversations about research and careers. The Division continues to offer free POLY membership to new members or those who have not been a member for three years. Sign up on-line at <http://polyacs.net/Membership/memberapp.htm>.

## Industrial Advisory Board Report

This has been a growth-fueled year for the Industrial Advisory Board! The Board has added five new members over the last year, bringing the total participation to 24 vibrant industrial companies. Welcome to Aramco Services, Pfizer, Illumina, Malvern Panalytical, and Price Heneveld LLP! I am honored to accept the appointment as 2018 IAB Chairman previous held by Travis Baughman (DSM Engineering Plastics) since 2011. Dr. Baughman took pride in enhancing the value of of IAB, and we thank him for his service. Corinne Lipscomb (3M) has joined me as the new Vice-Chair and I have no doubt that IAB will benefit greatly from her knowledge and experience with the POLY Division as Programming Chair and long standing contributions to POLY IAB activities. I plan to continue IAB's mission of making a real difference in strengthening your business networking, creating more relevant meeting programming, and celebrating the successes of our colleagues in the field (as well as up and coming talent through student awards). To help further this mission, Board Members voted last fall to raise yearly dues. These dues will allow IAB to create vibrant new initiatives and grow its reach as a divisional leader in POLY and ACS. In 2018, the Board has already increased the Graduate Student Travel Award from \$500 to \$750 per award, to better reflect the amount a student will spend to attend an ACS National Meeting. This award is given twice a year to two different polymer graduate students, allowing these young chemists the opportunity to present their research to a national audience (see spring awardees).

## Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research

The fourteenth symposium on "Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research" took place at the Spring 2018 ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Each Graduate Department was encouraged to nominate one outstanding graduate student to present on his/her research. There were **28 oral and 11 poster presentations**. The purpose of this symposium is to provide recognition to outstanding graduate students in polymer science and engineering, to foster networking and exposure, and to help develop the careers of future leaders in our field. Prof. Peter Dorhout, 2018 ACS President,

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visited the symposium Monday to give an encouraging talk to the students. He was introduced by Dr. Diana Gerbi, the 2018 POLY Chair. A group photo was taken with the students, Prof. Dorhout, and Dr. Gerbi. As part of the recognition, each student received a certificate and cash award. In addition, Wiley (Journal of Polymer Science) presented book awards to four students (Yuwei Gu, Ru Xie, Victoria Kensy, and Julia Pribyl) in recognition of outstanding papers.



## Undergraduate Research Symposium

The thirteenth annual Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science Symposium was held at the Spring ACS National Meeting, with **19 oral and 45 poster presentations from 32 universities** across the country. The symposium featured an industrial panel discussion on careers in polymer science, with representatives from national lab, academic, and industrial laboratories that was open to all undergraduate and graduate student attendees. The POLY Industrial Advisory Board and PolyEd provided awards for best paper and poster presentations. PolyEd also provided eight travel awards for best abstracts submitted. The NSF SusChEM: REU Site: Polymer Innovation for a Sustainable Future at The University of Southern Mississippi provided three travel awards. The organizers extend our thanks to all sponsors.



### PolyEd Best Abstract Awards

Samantha Daymon, Murray State University; Calvin Bestler, US AF Academy; Leslie Maynard, Virginia Tech; Kristyn Ardrey, Florida Polytechnic University; Sarah Benware, University of New Hampshire; Ana Witkowski, Clarkson University; Lauren Jenkins, Eastern Kentucky University; and Ian Barrett, ARFL. USM REU.

### Travel Award Winners

Hannah George, Hanover College; Benjamin Appleby, Oregon State University, and Garrett LeCroy, Georgia Tech