Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) First Event
See Pages 11

2023 High School Chemistry Olympiad Results
See Page 11

2022 ACS Outreach Volunteer of the Year
See Pages 12

2022 Outstanding Project SEED Mentor Award for ACS
See Page 13

---

Agnes Ann Green Distinguished Service Award 2023
See Page 2

2022 Tolman Award Celebration
See Page 5

In Memoriam - Dr. Henry Abrash
See Page 3

Report on Events Conducted by SCALACS Under the 2023 Science Café Grant
See Page 7

Call for Presentations at the High School Chemistry Teachers Meeting
See Page 2

Call for Candidates for SCALACS Election
See Page 2

Call for Nominations for Paul Shin Memorial High School Teacher of the Year Award
See Page 4

---

Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) First Event
See Pages 11

2023 High School Chemistry Olympiad Results
See Page 11

2022 ACS Outreach Volunteer of the Year
See Pages 12

2022 Outstanding Project SEED Mentor Award for ACS
See Page 13
A Joint Publication of the Southern California and San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

So. Cal. Chair’s Message ..................1
So. Cal. Information ......................2-7
ACS Fall 2023 Meeting ......................8
International Chemistry Olympiad.......8
ACS Fellows for 2023 ......................8
Insights Into IP Law .....................9
This Month in Chemical History ........10
S. G. Chair’s Message ..................11-13
Bi-Section Chemists’ Calendar .......BC

Website address: www.scalacs.org
Dear SCALACS members,

I hope everyone enjoyed a rejuvenating summer, perhaps sharing valuable vacation moments with cherished family and friends. As autumn dawns, an air of anticipation unfurls - students returning to campus, educators embracing the opportunity to guide a fresh cohort of freshmen and incoming graduate scholars, and the resonance of footsteps echoing through scholarly corridors. Witnessing both familiar and novel visages around campus is a source of perennial delight.

The autumn season heralds the arrival of National Chemistry Week, a time when we delve into this year's topic of Health and Medicine under the overarching theme: "The Healing Power of Chemistry." Mark your calendars for October 15-21 as we collectively commemorate this year's NCW. Anticipate a tapestry of engaging events across various campuses, paying homage to the scientific marvels of chemistry.

Despite the persistent presence of COVID-19, a shift towards in-person engagements has become palpable within workplaces, campuses, and event spheres. Last year, we witnessed the revival of erstwhile in-person gatherings, and in the current year, we aspire to sustain this trajectory. SCALACS was invited to a poster presentation at the UC Irvine Undergraduate Research Symposium on August 8. Thank you to Ely Khalid, a recent UC Irvine Graduate in Environmental Science, for being our poster presenter on the topic of climate change. We look forward to organizing similar events this year.

Additionally, the revival of the High School Teacher Conference, temporarily stymied by COVID-19 restrictions, has been a topic of deliberation. We are looking to bring back this initiative, nurturing the exchange of insights and pedagogical wisdom among educators. This event is tentatively set for October 28, 2023. We are currently looking for high school teachers who are willing to participate as event presenters. If you are interested in presenting, please contact our Education Chair, Michael Morgan at mmorgan@lausd.net.

As we venture into the forthcoming year, I extend an invitation for you to partake in SCALACS events and possibly contemplate assuming a role on the SCALACS team by adding your name to an electable position. Your presence and contributions could undoubtedly enrich the scientific tapestry we endeavor to weave.

Sincerely,

Edye Udell
Chair, SCALACS
Science Teacher, Westridge School
(EUdell@westridge.org)
Agnes Ann Green Distinguished Service Award 2023 is Awarded to Dr. Krishna Kallury, Ph.D.

Each year the Southern California Section solicits nominations for an award to recognize outstanding service to the section. The award, named in honor of its first recipient, is based on the following criteria:

- The recipient shall have an outstanding record of major service to the Southern California Section.
- The recipient shall have made one or more identifiable major contributions to the Section or to the national ACS through work at the Section level.

This year, SCALACS proudly presents this award to our section Councilor Dr. Krishna Kallury, Ph.D. Congratulations, Dr. Kallury for all your hard work in securing multiple grants that enabled us to host many beneficial activities that engaged our STEM community!

Call for Presentations at the High School Chemistry Teachers Meeting

The Southern California Section of ACS and the American Association of Chemistry Teachers are happy to announce the return of the in-person High School Chemistry Teachers Meeting at Occidental College. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 28, 2023. We are currently looking for high school teachers who are willing to present for the meeting. Presentations can be as short as ten minutes and as long as 30-45 minutes. If you are interested in presenting, please contact our Education Chair and meeting planner Michael Morgan at mmorgan@lausd.net for information about presenting.

SCALACS Seeking Candidates for Election!

SCALACS is seeking candidates for Members-at-Large to serve on the Executive Committee.

What does a Member-at-Large do? This is a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2024.

A Member-at-Large attends monthly business meetings of the Executive Committee on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., September through May, via Zoom. Most Members-at-Large participate on one of our committees – first as a helper, and later as a leader. For an idea of what those committees do, please visit the website here http://scalacs.org/?page_id=4. In the third year, the Member-at-Large is also a member of our Board of Directors, which is responsible for setting and approving the budget for the following year. We feel it is very important to engage interested members in Southern California Section leadership. If you are an active and paid member, then you are qualified to participate in your Section's governance. Please email office@scalacs.org with your expression of interest.
In Memoriam

DR. HENRY ABRASH

SEPTEMBER 27, 1935 - JULY 31, 2023

Longtime ACS member and SCALACS volunteer Dr. Henry Abrash passed away on July 31, 2023, surrounded by loving family and caregivers. He was 87 years old.

After completing his education at Harvard (undergrad), Caltech (Ph.D), and U Wisconsin (post-doc), Henry joined the California State University Northridge chemistry faculty, where he was a professor of physical organic chemistry until he retired. Henry served our local ACS section in many capacities for over a half century, including five full terms as Alternate Councilor, one term as Councilor, Chair (1995), Directory Committee, Tolman committee, Nominations & Elections Committee, and By-laws Committee. He was the coordinator of the host school rotation of the Undergraduate Research Conference from 1995-2019.

Before we started using the ACS-provided exams, he and another local section member developed exam questions for our local High School Chemistry Contest. For all of his long-term devotion to SCALACS, Henry was awarded the Agnes Ann Green Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

Henry took his volunteer commitments seriously with a humble energy that inspired and impressed those who worked with him. How his colleague volunteers viewed him was best summarized by this quote from someone who supported his service award nomination, "Henry has applied himself to our local section with a kindness and gentleness that is extraordinary... His whole attitude makes all of us feel welcome as colleagues and friends. He has a true spirit of volunteering that goes beyond what is asked or needed."

Henry's memorial service took place on August 13, 2023 at Mt. Sinai, Hollywood Hills, Tanach Chapel, followed by a reception at the CSUN Orchard. Henry’s family asks that you consider a contribution to a scholarship fund set up in Henry’s memory, "The Wonderment Scholarship in Chemistry in Memory of Dr. Henry I. Abrash."

Wonderment — because at the end of the day Henry was a big kid with endless curiosity about how the world worked. He always knew he wanted to be a chemistry professor, so he could share this curiosity with other like-minded seekers, or in other words, find other big kids who also wanted to play and explore. To donate to this scholarship fund online, visit: https://engage.csun.edu/AbrashSchol

Henry's full obituary can be read on the Mt. Sinai website:
https://mountsinaiparks.org/obituaries/henry-i-abrash/12102/
Call for Nominations for Paul Shin Memorial High School Teacher of the Year Award

If you know of a local high school chemistry teacher who is making a difference, please make the effort to show how important his/her work is to you and the students. Self-nominations from those who feel they fit the requirements are accepted as well. It is teachers like the recipients of this award who make learning chemistry rewarding.

Plus, there is a financial component of $500. The $500 will be an unrestricted award directly to the teacher. The winner of the Section Award will also be a nominee for the National ACS James Conant Bryant Award. Having won a previous award does not necessarily exclude a nominee; however, the nomination would need to be based on different criteria than the first award.

Nomination Package should include: Biographical sketch of nominee with date of birth, list of any publications, statement (no more than 1,000 words) of nominee's achievements as a high school chemistry teacher including quality of teaching, effective methods, nominee's ability to challenge and inspire students, extracurricular work (science fairs, clubs, etc.). Seconding letters are not essential, but up to five may be included. Nominating documents should be submitted via email to office@scalacs.org. Note that signed documents that have been scanned are acceptable.

The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2023. Please feel free to contact Michael Morgan of the Educational Affairs Committee at mmorgan@lausd.net if you have questions.
Congratulations to Professor Alison Butler for receiving the 2022 Tolman Award in recognition of her outstanding scientific contributions in bioinorganic and bioorganic chemistry.

We celebrated our 2022 Richard C. Tolman Award recipient, Professor Alison Butler, Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of California, Santa Barbara, at a luncheon held on August 5 at the UCSB Faculty Club.

The event was sponsored with the California Los Padres Section of the American Chemical Society. A buffet lunch was served followed by a presentation from Professor Butler, titled: "Elements of The High Seas: The Bioinorganic Chemistry of The Marine Environment."

Thank you to the Los Padres Section (CALPACS) for hosting this event and to Professor John P. Hagen, Chair of CALPACS for presenting the award.

Dear Edye, Danielle, and other members of the SCALACS Team,

I am writing to thank you very much for the Tolman Medal and plaque! The Los Padres section organized the Tolman Medal Award lecture which was followed by a lunch this past weekend on August 5th. It was a lot of fun. I am so honored to receive this award—especially in light of those that have come before me in winning this award. It means a lot to me.

Thank you!!

Alison Butler
Distinguished Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9510
(805) 893-8178
https://labs.chem.ucsb.edu/butler/alison/

Professor Alison Butler received the Tolman Award from Professor Hagen, Chair of CALPACS.
SCALACS Participation in the LA County Office of Education Math/STEM Festival at San Gabriel High School in Alhambra

Two Executive Committee Members of SCALACS, Inessa Bachynskaya and Krishna Kallury, participated in the SCALACS Booth activities on April 29, 2023, at the LACOE STEM Department-sponsored Math/STEM Festival. The event was open for Grade 4-Grade 11 students in LA County area schools. After a Math Olympiad Exam from 9 to 10:30 a.m., the students were directed to visit the STEM Booth area from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. In all, 300 students registered for the event, most of them at the middle and high school levels. They belonged to various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and included both girls and boys.

SCALACS Booth demonstrations focused on two concepts, viz. acids/bases and oxidation/reduction. Both of these were elaborated using nontoxic household chemicals/cleaning supplies and through glow sticks mechanism of light emission. These consisted of vinegar, baking soda, orange juice, purple cabbage extract and starch indicator solutions. At the same time, health-related materials like Vitamin C, Iodide/Iodine, hydrogen peroxide and milk of magnesia were used to explain the chemical concepts. Around 150 students visited the booth and very much appreciated the interactive demonstrations/discussions.

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is a public awareness campaign that promotes the value of chemistry in everyday life. ACS members and chemistry enthusiasts celebrate NCW by coordinating events and communicating the importance of chemistry.

National Chemistry Week is celebrated this year during the week of October 15-21, with the theme “The Healing Power of Chemistry.” Chemistry plays a crucial role in formulating the medicines we take when we get sick, developing the vaccinations we roll our sleeves up for, and testing the blood samples that we provide at our doctors’ offices.

The theme recognizes the tremendous advances made by medical professionals and scientists with inspiration from ancient peoples’ habits, from plants and animals in the wild, and from our own bodies’ mechanisms to prevent, fight, heal, and restore us to health. Did you know, currently about 11 percent of all medicines considered “essential” by the World Health Organization (WHO) are derived from flowering plants?

Look out for events that we’ll be hosting as we celebrate National Chemistry Week together.
Report on Events Conducted by SCALACS Under the 2023 Science Café Grant

The proposal for the Science Café Grant focused on educating high school and college students on climate change, causes/effects, and remedial measures. Two events highlighting this topic were conducted: dual virtual seminars on alternate methods of energy generation by Dr. Salmaan Baxamusa and Prof. Sri Narayan (for details, refer to the April and May 2023 issue of the SCALACS magazine); and a poster presentation on climate change and remediation at the Undergraduate Research Symposium organized by UC Irvine on August 8, 2023.

The poster presenter was a recent UC Irvine Graduate in Environmental Science, Ely Khalid. The audiences were the undergraduates from universities/colleges in Southern California. The SCALACS poster was included in the Morning Session 1 along with 40 other undergraduate presenters. Apart from these presenters, there were UCI Faculty Members, graduate students and the public at large. The poster highlighted the causes and effects of climate change, evidence through research/data, and remedial measures.

An attractive remedial measure is energy generation through alternate protocols. One such method is nuclear fusion extensively studied by the Lawrence Livermore Lab in California. The scientist who designed the infrastructure for this project was Dr. Patricia Baisden who was awarded ACS Fellow in 2023 by the National ACS. Furthermore, a press release on August 9, 2023, highlighted that scientists at LLL could reproduce the earlier results of 2022 with enhanced energy generation (see link https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/climate/solutions/us-scientists-repeat-fusion-ignition-breakthrough-for-second-time).

One climate change effect that attracted audience attention is the effect of underground temperature change and its effect on sinking of ground and structures including residences. Research by a scientist from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, on temperature changes and its effects on downtown Chicago structures revealed that the ground and buildings in urban areas crack or move due to expansion and contraction of the ground due to temperature variations. For details on this topic visit: https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2023/07/ground-is-deforming-and-buildings-aren't-ready/
SCALACS

Congratulations to ACS Fellows for 2023!
The American Chemical Society has named 42 members as ACS fellows for 2023. The fellows program began in 2009 as a way to recognize and honor ACS members for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and ACS. Patricia A. Baisden, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Retired) mentioned on page 7 is one of the 2023 ACS Fellows. A list of the 2023 ACS Fellows, as well as those named in earlier years, can be found at www.acs.org/fellows.

US brings home medals at the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad
We are thrilled to announce that all four members of Team USA earned two silver and two gold medals at the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad in Zurich, Switzerland. Out of 348 participants, 217 were awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals.
The Team USA medalists are:
Mingwen Duan, East Lyme High School, CT, Connecticut Valley Local Section, silver medal; Alice Liu, Marquette High School, MO, St. Louis Local Section, silver medal; Anurag Sodhi, Centennial High School, MD, Maryland Local Section, gold medal; Phoenix Wu, Seven Lakes High School, TX, Greater Houston Local Section, gold medal. This year, 87 countries and 8 individual participants competed in the IChO. We are immensely proud of Team USA. Congratulations!

Summary of Governance Issues/Actions at the ACS Fall 2023 Meeting, August 13-17, 2023
At the ACS Fall 2023 Meeting, the Council met to deliberate governing issues. In addition to voting for members of elected committees, the Council received reports from various committees and the Board of Directors. Council approved the addition of an International Director to the Board, reducing the number of Directors at Large on the Board from six to five. If this action is ratified by the Board of Directors, ACS members will be asked to vote on a change to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws, which will require the support of 2/3 of ACS voting members.

A special discussion by Council was held on how to ensure Equitable Governance for the Future. Three prompts were posed for Councilors to guide the discussion:
1. Ideally, for ACS Council to equitably represent all members we would….
2. The key areas where we need to ensure greater equity an inclusion in Council are….
3. I wish Council would/could………….to engender greater equity and inclusion.

If you would like to provide input into this discussion, please email the office@SCALACS.org.
A more complete summary of Council actions at the just-concluded ACS Fall 2023 Meeting can be found on the SCALACS website, https://scalacs.org/?page_id=44. SCALACS is currently represented on the governing Council of ACS by six councilors: Brian Brady, Robert de Groot, Veronica Jaramillo, Alex Oxyzolow, Eleanor Siebert, and Barbara Sitzman.

From left to right: Laura Serbulea, Esther Hines, Anurag Sodhi, Mingwen Duan, Phoenix Wu, Alice Liu, Joseph Houck, and Songwen Xie with their medals after the closing ceremony for the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). The team of high school students and their mentors made the journey to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, to represent the United States at the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO).

Photo credit ©Lily Raines.
Turning back to the doctrine of “fair use” in copyright law, a question of interest to our ACS members in academia is how fair use operates in the classroom setting. The March 2023 edition of this column explained that the doctrine allows the public to use not only facts from copyrighted works, but also expression, without incurring liability for copyright infringement—and the column set forth four “fair use” factors: the purpose and character of the use, the nature of the work, the amount and substantiality of the portion used relative to the work as a whole, and the effect of the use on the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work.

The fuzziness of these fair use factors was of immediate concern to the educational community when the factors were introduced. As one politician noted during congressional debates regarding the Copyright Act, “there is a sincere fear on their part that, because of the vagueness or ambiguity in the bill’s treatment of the doctrine of fair use, they may subject themselves to liability for unintentional infringement of copyright when all they were trying to do was the job for which they were trained.” The politician further explained that “[t]he vast majority of teachers in this country would not knowingly infringe upon a person’s copyright, but, as any teacher can appreciate, there are times when information is needed and is available, but it may be literally impossible to locate the right person to approve the use of that material and the purchase of such would not be feasible and, in the meantime, the teacher may have lost that ‘teachable moment.’”

Yet Congress maintained that “a specific exemption freeing certain reproductions of copyrighted works for educational and scholarly purposes from copyright control is not justified.” Instead, Congress sought to provide educators guidance regarding what does and does not constitute fair use. To develop this guidance, it urged representatives from an Ad Hoc Committee of Educational Institutions and Organizations on Copyright Law Revision, the Authors League of America, and the Association of American Publishers to convene “in an effort to achieve a meeting of the minds as to permissible educational uses of copyrighted material.”

After meeting several times in 1975 and 1976, the representatives reached agreement concerning copying from books and periodicals, and wrote a letter to the Judiciary Subcommittee articulating an “Agreement on Guidelines For Classroom Copying In Not-For-Profit Educational Institutions.” Future editions of this column will explore the guidelines and how they have been treated by the courts.
I now conclude my review of 90 year old chemistry as seen in the “Annual Reports of the Progress of Chemistry” for 1933. I begin with the section on subatomic phenomena and radioactivity. The events of 1933 cannot compare in significance with those of 1932 that saw the emergence of both the neutron and deuterium, but they still have great impact particularly the observations of “a particle, apparently the same in mass and charge as the electron but of opposite sign”! The positron as we now know it was easily produced in the laboratory.

The deuterium nucleus, called the diplon or deuton, was being explored as a “powerful projectile against the nuclei of light elements.” Further study of cosmic radiation suggests that “radiation” should be replaced by “particles” and even “cosmic” might be a misnomer! (It isn’t).

Studies of isotopes continue and new isotopes of Zn, CdTe, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, and Tb have been identified by mass spectrometry. Much of this work was done by Aston. Surprisingly only one isotope of Terbium, of mass 159, was observed – at odds with the chemical atomic mass of 159.2; a puzzle yet to be resolved. The isotopic compositions of 70 of the 92 known elements have now been investigated. Twenty-two of the elements studied have only a single isotope.

Artificial disintegrations of the lighter elements by bombardments with protons, deuterons, neutrons, and alpha-particles have been objects of intensive study. For example $7\text{Li} + \text{H} = 2\ 4\text{He}$. The kinetic energies of both the bombarding protons and the helium nuclei generated have been explored. Alpha particles are also produced by bombardment of boron with protons: $11\text{B} + \text{H} = 3\text{He}$.

Neutrons are also effective in disintegrating light elements. For example: $n + 14\text{N} = 15\text{N} = 4\text{He} + 11\text{B}$; and $n + 16\text{O} = 4\text{He} + 13\text{C}$.

Mme. I. Curie and M. F. Joliot have used the bombardment of light elements with alpha-particles from polonium to generate neutrons. Targets included Be, B, Li, etc. In addition to neutrons, some light elements also emit gamma rays or protons. This phenomenon has also been studied by L. Meitner. The positron (positive electron) was discovered independently by Anderson; and by Blackett and Occhialini. Both groups used cloud chambers and observed positrons in cosmic radiation. Positrons can be produced in the laboratory by absorption of high energy gamma rays by lead. Oppenheimer and Plesset have calculated that the observed process should produce a pair of particles simultaneously, an electron and a positron. Extensive studies of cosmic radiation have shown that it may be of unknown terrestrial origin, and consists of both penetrating radiation and particles including positrons.

And now for something completely different – a brief foray into analytical chemistry and a hint of things to come. Analysis of mixtures of homologous hydrocarbons, especially paraffins is, in 1933, extremely difficult. They cannot be separated chemically, and combustion only gives an average formulation. Gaseous diffusion can give some idea of the nature of the lightest components. The sole exact method in principle, though challenging in practice, is liquefaction of the entire mixture and careful fractional distillation. Components are identified by boiling points and molar mass determinations. A promising new method has been described, separately by Kuhn and by Schuffan. This depends on selective desorption of the hydrocarbons from cooled charcoal or silica gel. I believe that we see here the germ of a procedure that eventually became gas chromatography.

And so we say farewell to “Annual Reports” for 1933. You can look forward to a wider variety of columns for the rest of this year. But perhaps in early 2024… Have a great summer.
Hello!

I would like to share with you about what has been happening in the San Gorgonio Section over the past few months.

**Our Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) held its first event in the beginning of May.** Around 20 undergrad and grad students from UCR, College of the Desert, Cal Baptist, and Cal State San Bernardino came together for an evening of bowling and pizza, sponsored by the San Gorgonio Section. This inaugural YCC event was a great success and helped connect many chemistry students in the area. Thank you to Olivia Taylor and the rest of the YCC for organizing this event. We would love to see more colleges and universities represented at our next event. Email me if you would like more information about getting your chemistry/science club involved with the San Gorgonio Section's YCC.

We recognized the top-scoring students from the **ACS Chemistry Olympiad** Local Section and National Exams in May. The Section hosted a banquet for these students, along
with their families and teachers. Two of our local students received scores on the Olympiad National Exam that earned them special recognition. Yuxi (Jack) Zhu from Diamond Bar High School received Honors, meaning he scored in the top 100 students nationwide, and Fernan Coo from Redlands High School received High Honors, meaning he scored in the top 50 students nationwide! Special congrats go to Fernan Coo for this accomplishment, since this is the first time in 10 years that a student from the San Gorgonio Section received High Honors on this challenging exam. It was wonderful connecting with the next generation of scientists and engineers during the banquet. These high school students are so driven and I am proud of what they have already accomplished. I know they will continue to do great things in the future!

Join me in congratulating the 2022 ACS Outreach Volunteer of the Year for the San Gorgonio Section, Dr. Michael J. Nalbandian! He is the Chair of the Section’s Environmental Improvement Committee and is the Section’s Web Designer. As the chair of the Environmental Improvement Committee, Dr. Nalbandian was responsible for planning our 2022 Chemists Celebrate Earth Week outreach event. He displayed creativity by organizing various demos and activities that fit that year’s theme of insect chemistry. Dr. Nalbandian has participated in almost every single outreach event that our Section has hosted over the past 4 years, also participating in National Chemistry Week and Olympiad outreach events. We appreciate the outreach volunteer work Dr. Nalbandian has done for the Section over the years!
Congratulations to Dr. Jingsong Zhang, Chemistry Professor at UCR, who was recently awarded with the 2022 Outstanding Project SEED Mentor Award for ACS! He received one of two awards given for the year to recognize noteworthy contributions to this important program. Dr. Zhang has been a mentor for several high school students in the Section over the years through the Project SEED program. Thank you, Dr. Zhang, for all that you do to help train up the next generation of chemists! You can read more about Dr. Zhang and this prestigious award here: https://insideucr.ucr.edu/awards/2023/05/23/chemistry-prof-gains-national-recognition-outstanding-mentorship

The San Gorgonio Section is now on LinkedIn! Connect with us on LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/american-chemical-society-san-gorgonio-section/), follow us on Instagram (@SanGorgonioACS), and bookmark our webpage (https://www.sangorgonioacs.com/) to stay up-to-date on the latest with the Section. The Executive Board and I are currently planning the Section events for the Fall, so stay tuned for more information!

If you would like to volunteer for one of our committees, please fill out the form at https://forms.gle/26CZmwuWP1qjMWbc6. If you would like to become a financial partner of the Section, you can email me at jnalbandian@calbaptist.edu. We use donations from our members for funding student scholarships, Project SEED research for high school students, outreach events, and more!

Feel free to email me if you have any questions or suggestions for the Section. Have a great month!

Dr. Jenifer N. Nalbandian
Chair of the San Gorgonio Local Section
jnalbandian@calbaptist.edu
Bi-Section ACS Calendar

**OCTOBER**

15-21 National Chemistry Week: The Healing Power of Chemistry — see page 6

28 SCALACS High School Chemistry Teachers Meeting — see page 2

**NOVEMBER**

15 Call for Nominations for Paul Shin Memorial High School Teacher of the Year Award

Deadline — see page 4

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