



OCACS Elements

The Orange County Local Section is excited to launch this monthly update of Section activities and upcoming events. If you would like more information about our section or how you or your company can contribute to our Section's efforts, please visit our website.

Visit our Website

OCACS to Celebrate our Orange County College Award Winners

The Orange County Local Section has a long history of honoring our local college and high school students.

In 1970, we began to honor the top college students from our local community colleges and universities each year, which makes 2017 our 48th Annual College Awards Dinner.



Our first year, we honored students from 9 schools, and since 1986 have held steady at about 12 - 15 students. These students are selected by the faculty from their respective schools. At first, they were included in the high school awards dinner, but now, we have a separate honors dinner for the college students, where they and their faculty sponsor are given dinner and a certificate, along with a \$50 gift card and their name on the school's perpetual plaque. In 2016, we honored 14 students from 14 colleges and universities.

At each awards dinner, we invite a featured speaker from the local scientific community to present information about his or her research. This year [Dr. Gregory A. Weiss](#) from the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at UCI will present "[Listening and Dancing with Life's Molecular Machines](#)". The public is welcome to attend this event with an advance RSVP. Please visit www.ocacs.org to RSVP by April 17, 2017.



The American Chemical Society designates selected buildings where seminal chemistry discoveries took place as National Landmarks. Rowland Hall on the UCI campus has been granted such a designation in honor of the Rowland/Molina ground-breaking work on CFCs and stratospheric ozone loss.

The Landmark Dedication will be held at Rowland Hall at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 18, with a reception following the dedication. The AirUCI Institute is holding a two-day symposium on April 18 and 19th structured around the Landmark Dedication. The symposium will honor the history of this field at UCI, and move to the present and future as represented by the new faculty hired UCI to maintain its research excellence in the area of atmospheric sciences.

The symposium will be held at the Beckman Center on campus. The [schedule of speakers can be found here](#).



[The American Chemical Society \(ACS\) announces](#) its support of the [March for Science](#) to be held on Earth Day, April 22. The March, which coincides with the annual ACS event called Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED), aligns with the Society's key goal of fostering understanding and appreciation of science by the public, the media, and policymakers.

Each year since 2003, ACS has conducted CCED as a nationwide celebration of the positive impact that chemistry has had on society and the environment. This year's CCED theme is "Chemistry Helps Feed the World." ACS members across the U.S., through the Society's 185 local sections, will be involved with outreach and engagement activities with their communities.

The March for Science occurs on the same day and provides another means of expressing support for science in the U.S., and its contributions toward improving people's lives, protecting our nation, creating jobs, driving innovation and facilitating economic growth.



Don't miss our upcoming events and meetings and for more information, please visit our [website](#).

- April 18: Rowland Hall Dedication
- April 22: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day and March for Science
- April 26: College Awards Dinner
- April 27: Environmental Committee Presentation
- May 11: Executive Committee Meeting
- May 23: High School Awards Dinner
- October 15: National Chemistry Week

Environmental Committee

Dr. Harshad Kulkarni, Research Scientist at Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering (PACE), Inc., will be our next speaker for the 2017 OCACS Environmental Group meeting on Thursday, April 27th, 2017.

Dr. Kulkarni recently joined PACE after he finished his PhD in Civil Engineering at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. He will be presenting his PhD research, which illustrates the interesting biogeochemistry of natural organic matter and arsenic in groundwater, in particular the importance of organic matter in arsenic mobilization by iron reducing bacteria in the arsenic rich aquifers.



Arsenic contamination of drinking water wells has still been a wide-spread problem in the United States and around the world. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

The meeting will be held at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants' Irvine Office (3210 El Camino Real, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92602). The meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for Dr. Kulkarni's presentation.

Please RSVP to Dr. Ganesh Rajagopalan (RGanesh@KennedyJenks.com) by April 25th, 2017 if you plan to attend. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

[Dr. Ganesh Rajagopalan](#), Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

[Dr. Keisuke Ikehata](#), Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering (PACE)

Get Involved & Support OCACS

If you want to network with over 1300 chemists in Orange County, host a technical tour, speak at one of our dinner meetings or science cafes, explore leadership opportunities, or advertise with

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our Section, please visit our [website](#) or E-mail us at OCACSLocalSection@gmail.com and OCACSCChair@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you!

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