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## OCACS Elements

The Orange County Local Section wants to hear from you. 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 or contact us at [OCACSChair@gmail.com](mailto:OCACSChair@gmail.com).

[Visit our Website](#)

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### OCACS to Celebrate our Orange County High School Award Winners

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

We began our high school first year exam in 1964, with 25 schools participating, and completed our **53rd high school awards dinner in 2016**, with students from over 40 schools being honored.



Each school can send up to 8 students to take the exam, so logistically this is complex. Each year the top scoring student from each participating high school in Orange County is honored at a dinner (along with his/her teacher), and the student has his/her name engraved on a perpetual plaque kept at the high school. Additionally, the overall top-scoring student is recognized with our Bruce Davis award, which includes a special medallion and \$50 gift card.

In 1985 the Local Chemistry Olympiad exam for second year high school chemistry students was initiated. We permit each school to send a maximum of 4 students to the exam, since our section pays all costs for this activity. We began to honor the top Olympiad student from each participating high school (plus

teacher) at the High School Awards Program. Each of these winning students also gets his/her name engraved on the perpetual plaque. The top students who qualify for National Chemistry Olympiad exam (the exact number varies from year to year, but is normally 10-14) also get medallions and \$50 gift cards. The top student overall is awarded the Margaret Carlberg award, which includes a special medallion and a \$75 gift card.

In 2013 we also introduced a team competition to our Olympiad exams. The purpose of the award is to encourage greater participation in the program and to raise the excitement level of each individual's accomplishments due to the camaraderie that results from competing as a team. Team scores are calculated based on the total number of questions answered correctly for all competitors from each school. For example, schools sending four competitors will have their team score based on the cumulative total of questions answered for each competitor. This encourages schools to send their maximum number of students, since that increases their team scoring power.

This past year we increased our awards program to team plaques for the top 6 teams (from the top 3 teams previously), presented at the high school awards banquet, and certificates for each of the members of the winning teams. Students from the winning teams are also honored at the awards banquet in May and their dinner is paid for by OCACS.

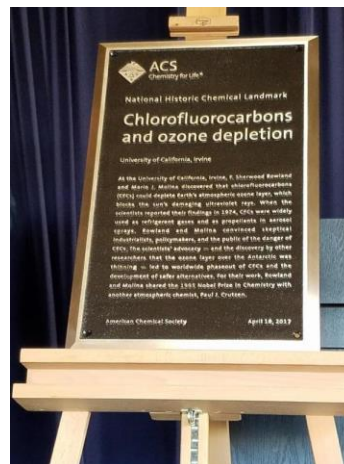
Our committee members judge projects at the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair and give awards for projects in both middle and high school divisions which "demonstrate the best understanding of chemical principles." At our awards dinner they too are honored with plaques, certificates, and \$50 gift cards. They and their teachers are invited to be our guests at the dinner.

At each awards dinner, we invite a featured speaker from the local scientific community to present information about his or her research. This year Harwood Garland from the Department of Chemistry at UCI will present "[Where to Go from Here?](#)". The public is welcome to attend this event with an advance RSVP. Please visit [www.ocacs.org](http://www.ocacs.org) to RSVP by May 18, 2017.

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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 was held at Rowland Hall on Tuesday, April 18, and many of our local ACS members attended, including ACS President Dr. Allison Campbell. A corresponding symposium highlighted the history of atmospheric sciences at UCI, and the University's 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.



Dr. Carol Grimes, chair of the OCACS Education Committee, and Dr. Edward “Ted” Lorance, Professor of Chemistry at Vanguard University were honored at April’s College Awards Dinner.

Dr. Grimes received the Charles R. Bennett Service Through Chemistry Award for her contribution to all things chemistry in Orange County.

Dr. Lorance received the OCACS Volunteer of the Year award for his commitment to volunteerism in the Orange County chemistry community.

Our Local Section is powered and is special, because of our volunteers who give so much of their time and talent.



**Dr. Carol Grimes**



**Dr. Ted Lorance**

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

- May 11: Executive Committee Meeting
- May 23: High School Awards Dinner
- May 31: Deadline for Summer Newsletter (June-July)
- September 28: OCACS Dinner Meeting & Lifetime Membership

Recognition

- October 15: National Chemistry Week

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## Environmental Committee

On April 27, 2017, we had this year's second environmental group meeting at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants in Irvine, CA.

Our speaker was Dr. Harshad Kulkarni who completed his PhD degree in Civil Engineering at Kansas State University and recently joined Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering (PACE), Inc. as a research scientist.



Dr. Kulkarni presented his PhD research on biochemical interactions of dissolved organic matter (DOM) with arsenic. He revealed the impacts of the types of DOM on the microbial release of arsenic from iron-rich minerals in different aquifers.

The meeting lasted more than 1.5 hours with a lot of tireless discussion on the biogeochemistry of As and its implications for the environment.

Our next meeting will be held on June 22, 2017 at 7:30 pm at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants in Irvine, CA. Please check the OCACS website for further updates. If you are interested in joining the Environmental Committee, please contact us.

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

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

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| 22<br><b>Ti</b><br>Titanium<br>47.867   | 88<br><b>Ra</b><br>Radium<br>(226)    | 39<br><b>Y</b><br>Yttrium<br>88.90585   |

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

We would love to hear from you!

## OCACS Executive Committee

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|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
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