



**ACS**  
Chemistry for Life®

## May 2019 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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### Chair's Message

We are already in mid-May! Some of us are probably very busy wrapping up the academic year 2018-2019. The rest of us are probably very busy anyways before the summer. I hope your month will be very productive.

Within OCACS, we've had another eventful month in April. On Wednesday, April 24, the 2019 College Awards Dinner was held at Concordia University, Irvine, CA. This year 15 students were selected from 15 schools in Orange



County. For the list of the College Award Winners and photos, please go to our website (<http://ocacs.sites.acs.org/collegeawardsprogram.htm>).

Also, on Tuesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 25, OCACS organized an Earth Week celebration event at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) by collaborating with CSUF's Chemistry & Biochemistry Club (CBC). It was a fun event attracted many members and non-members! Please see the project lead & our new Younger Chemist



Committee chair Monica Gutfinger's report below for details with more photos.

In May, we will have the 2019 High School Awards Banquet on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 in the Titan Student Union at CSUF. Please see below for more information including the banquet program and registration information. Our Environmental Committee is also planning to have another meeting in late May. Please stay tuned!

I hope to see you soon at one of these events!

Dr. Keisuke Ikehata  
Chair, Orange County Section  
American Chemical Society

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## Orange County Section High School Awards Banquet Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Titan Student Union  
California State University, Fullerton

Registration: 5:45 PM  
Dinner (Italian Buffet): 6:00 PM  
Speaker: 6:45 PM  
Award Presentation: 7:30 PM

**Reservation:** Register online through the Orange County American Chemical Society website (<http://ocacs.sites.acs.org/reghighschoolinner.htm>). Follow the directions to register all the guests and pay for their dinners with a credit/debit card or PayPal. Print out the PayPal receipt and bring it to the Banquet.

Registration and payment for the Dinner must be completed by **midnight on Friday, May 17th 2019.**

To be seated with a particular high school's students, make sure you enter the name of the High School and we will do our best to accommodate you.

**Cost:** \$30 per person. The teacher of each student awardee and the student attend as guests of ACS, but reservations are required. No one can be seated for dinner without advance reservations.

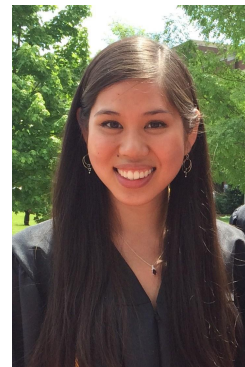
E-mail questions to Helen Wagner at [hwagner0227@gmail.com](mailto:hwagner0227@gmail.com).

**Directions to CSUF:** Exit the 57 freeway on Nutwood Avenue and go west. Turn right onto North State College Blvd. The State College Parking Structure (SCPS)

can be accessed from State College Blvd. by taking either Student Union Way or Gymnasium Drive (see map). Be sure to park on level 2 or higher and buy a parking permit at one of the machines (cost: \$8). Parking permits can be purchased only with Visa, MasterCard or Discover, no cash is accepted. After parking and purchasing your daily parking permit, take the elevator to the ground floor and walk straight across the courtyard to the Titan Student Union (TSU). The Dinner will be in Pavilion-BC. (Some free parking is available across the street in the Troy High School lot, if you don't mind walking a bit.)

**Speaker:**

**Victoria Lim**  
**PhD Candidate, Department of Chemistry**  
**University of California, Irvine**



**Presentation:**

**A Path to Computational Chemistry through  
Uncertainty, Opportunity and Tenacity**

**Abstract:**

In my personal journey to where I am now, an NSF research fellow studying theoretical chemistry, I had much uncertainty in knowing what I wanted to do when I started college. My parents pushed me to pursue a medical profession, but I knew that wasn't something that interested me. I chose a college, Belmont University, that was financially more feasible than other schools that would have provided me better resources and scientific experience. However, I didn't let the lack of opportunities deter me, as I used my time to explore my interests via three summer REUs/internships as well as through my coursework.

I shall emphasize the same principles of not being deterred in the face of obstacles. As a woman in STEM, I am fortunate to have much guidance and experience that led me to where I am today, but none of this fell into my lap; instead, it was a winding road with moments of decision paralysis but a road traversed with patience and perseverance.

**Biography:**

Victoria Lim is from Nashville, Tennessee, where she completed her bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics (summa cum laude) at Belmont University. She is currently a PhD student in computational chemistry at UC Irvine, where she investigates the molecular inhibition of membrane proteins. Victoria has been recognized with fellowships in science communication (The Loh Down on Science), technology transfer (UCI Applied Innovation), and scientific research (National Science Foundation).

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## **OCACS Environmental Committee Update**

### **Bi-Monthly Environmental Group Meeting**

Our Environmental Committee is planning to have our second environmental meetings in late May. If you want more information about the environmental committee, please contact the committee chair Dr. Ganesh Rajagopalan ([RGanesh@KennedyJenks.com](mailto:RGanesh@KennedyJenks.com)).



# Earth Week Concrete Workshop Report

On April 23 & 25, **OC ACS Environmental and Younger chemist committees** came together with the *Chemistry and Biochemistry Club (CBC)* from California state university Fullerton (CSUF) to hold a concrete workshop in celebration of Earth Week on CSUF campus. The April 23 event featured speaker Ava Moussavi, Assistant Engineer – Water Quality Compliance II from Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD). Ava discussed sustainable Concrete, Chemistry of Concrete, Stormwater Drainage, and Pervious Concrete, and the research and testing the RCFC&WCD has done with pervious concrete test beds on their site.



Afterwards each participant had the opportunity to make their own sample size permeable concrete piece. This involved mixing a 1:3 ratio of Portland cement to gravel with 50 mL of water for 3 minutes. After everyone put their concrete in box to dry and decorate. The results were great!

On April 25, we handed back people's homemade pieces and gave them the opportunity to see how the water filtered through the concrete! Everyone's was effective in filtering water!



We also did a side-by-side demo showing how flooding looks with normal concrete compared with pervious concrete. Many people walking by took a moment to see the demo, and learn about the 1:1 ratio each ton of cement releases of CO<sub>2</sub>. Many people were shocked to learn this fact along with others, and were wildly surprised by how the water went right through the pervious concrete!

If you are interested in learning more about the event and the pervious concrete, please contact Monica

Gutfinger ([monicagutfinger@gmail.com](mailto:monicagutfinger@gmail.com))



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## Education Committee Update

Our section's First-Year Chemistry Exam was held at CSUF on April 27th, 2019. We had 319 students from 43 high school in Orange County registered. The top scorer from each school will be honored with their names engraved on each school's perpetual plaque at the High School Award Banquet in May.

On April 24, 2019, the following outstanding college chemistry students (selected by faculty vote) in Orange County received their awards at our College Award Dinner at Concordia University:

- California State University Fullerton: Rebecca Clark
- Cerritos College: Alberto Castanedo
- Chapman University: Daniel Chang
- Concordia University: Madison Kreinheder
- Cypress College: Minh Nguyen
- Fullerton College: Evan Bonnard
- Golden West College: Elena Mosham
- Irvine Valley College: Rojina Pad
- Mt. San Antonio College: Jose Ortiz
- Orange Coast College: Patrick Nguyen
- Saddleback College: Elizabeth Monteith
- Santa Ana College: Long Ly Hoa Nguyen
- Santiago Canyon College: Jessica Poldrugo
- University of California, Irvine: Nuodi Zhang
- Vanguard University: Colette Beard

The last committee meeting of this academic year will be held at Vanguard University on June 20, 2019 from 6:30 PM. Our opening meeting in Sept/Oct will be decided upon then. If you are interested in joining the committee (meetings in Sept/Oct, Nov, Jan, March, June), please contact Carol Grimes at [cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu). You are invited to come and see what we do – no commitment is necessary!





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## Government Affairs Committee Update

The Government Affairs committee of OCACS supports the ACS Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations. The GA committee supports agencies and elected officials of federal, state, and local government. Since ACS is a non-profit, ACS cannot recommend how **elected officials** should vote but can act as a resource. The GA committee and other OCACS committee members recently contacted a Congressperson and a STEM education coordinator in Orange County and will continue to reach out. Suggested ideas, activities, and contacts are most welcome! Please contact our Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Mark Hanning-Lee at [markhl@prodigy.net](mailto:markhl@prodigy.net).



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## Younger Chemists Committee Update



### Farewell to Our YCC Chair Amanda Bjornstad

Our Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) chair Amanda Bjornstad will be leaving OCACS to attend a medical school in Chicago starting in July! We are so excited about her move! Her estimated MD completing is Spring 2013. She will be a great doctor! We wish Amanda all the best!

Below is a message about Amanda from Sanda Sun:

*"Amanda Bjornstad joined OCACS during her freshman year and eagerly contributed to our community outreach program. As the Chair of the Younger Chemists Committee, she originated, designed, and organized youth outreach events that have been wildly successful, winning ACS Chemluminary Awards. Amanda coordinated with the Children's Hospital of Orange County to host periodic chemistry events for their outpatient clinic, marking the start of an exciting new adventure for our section. Her age-adjusted lesson plans and experiments captivate a wide age range of children, making interactive chemistry interesting. Amanda's creative approach to teaching and zest for chemistry are exemplary."*

Amanda's tremendous drive, dynamic energy, and outspoken advocacy for outreach led to a nomination as a consultant on the Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) of National ACS. Her subsequent election to the national board was a result of her enthusiasm and ability to diversify the board with a unique perspective. Amanda's adaptability was showcased at our national meeting as the youngest person among lifelong administrators and scientists. She communicated effectively with members of the committee, contributing insightful ideas about diversifying membership.

Amanda's passion and determination has been integral to our contribution to the national organization. It will be a significant loss to us when she moves to the next stage of her career as a medical student. On behalf of the OCACS board, I as a councilor and executive member, confidently say we fully support her goals to achieve great success in the medical profession. Her accomplishments have made all of us proud and we look forward to seeing her thrive as a medical student and as an exceptional doctor."

Amanda will be succeeded by Monica Gufinger. Monica is currently an undergraduate student at CSFU and has been very actively involved in OCACS.

### Next YCC Event

The next YCC event at the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) Clinic will be from 1 PM to 2 PM. To register, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054CA5AF22A5F94-chemistry7>.

If you are interested in joining the YCC, please contact our new committee chair Monica Gufinger ([monicagufinger@gmail.com](mailto:monicagufinger@gmail.com)).

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### 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 2019 Executive Board & Committees

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Chair-Elect	Dr. Richard Deming	<a href="mailto:rdeming@fullerton.edu">rdeming@fullerton.edu</a>
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Program Committee	Mr. Robert Cohen	<a href="mailto:cohenr@sbcglobal.net">cohenr@sbcglobal.net</a>
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Women Chemists Committee	Dr. Sandra Thompson	<a href="mailto:OCACSWCC@gmail.com">OCACSWCC@gmail.com</a>
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