

# Councilor Bulletin

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## "...for the benefit of earth and its people."

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri, ACS President

*"As president-elect and as president, I have initiated activities commensurate with our leadership roles as a scientific, educational, professional, and learned Society."*



Peter Cuts Photography

The ACS Council is the heart of a robust and versatile organization. Our role as Councilors is to guide our members and staff toward the fulfillment of the ACS mission to "advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people." ACS must show itself, the general public, and policy makers that the chemical sciences are major drivers of our economy and contribute hugely to prosperity, fairness and justice. Our performance as a Society is gauged by the creativity of our elected and appointed leaders and by the efficiency and productivity of our staff. The ultimate measure of everything we do is the influence we have on the vitality of the chemical enterprise and on society locally, across the Nation, and around the world.

As president-elect and as president I have initiated activities commensurate with our leadership role as a scientific, educational, professional, and learned Society. Our strength is much more than the sheer size of our membership, more than 164,000 worldwide—our strength is in the power of our principles and their manifestations. Our strength is in the power of our ideas and the effectiveness of all our offerings through Pub-

lications and CAS, international, national, regional, and local programming, communications, and advocacy. Our strength is the critical leadership role we play and *must* continue to play in advancing the chemical enterprise, serving society, and addressing global challenges.

Climate change and water management rank high among the grand challenges that face science and society, and ACS is poised to address both. At our San Diego National Meeting Council session we discussed the work of the ACS Presidential Working Group on Climate Science. At the Philadelphia meeting we began to address the water issues. These special topic discussions have helped guide the near completion of the ACS Climate Sci-

ence Toolkit, which is now available to our members at [www.acs.org/climatescience](http://www.acs.org/climatescience) and helped focus our thinking about the leadership role of ACS in matters related to water.

The ACS Climate Science Toolkit provides ACS members with the information and other resources necessary to develop a robust intellectual structure to communicate on this key topic. It explains the greenhouse gas effect, how the Earth's heating mechanism works, how the vibrational energy from molecules changes into translational kinetic energy, and much more. The toolkit also provides a package of "Climate Science Narratives" and Power Point slides that can be adapted and per-

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### Schedule of Business Sessions - Spring 2013 New Orleans, LA

#### Board of Directors

Sunday, April 7 - (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

#### Committee on Committees

Monday, April 8 - (1:30 - 2:30 p.m.)

#### Council Policy Committee

Tuesday, April 9 - (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

#### Council

Wednesday, April 10 - (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)



## President, Cont'd

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sonalized when ACS members have the opportunity to speak publicly about climate science. Additional dissemination strategies will be announced soon including a Presidential Challenge Grant Program for local sections and divisions. Our audiences include students, schoolteachers, college and university faculty, industrial scientists and business leaders, civic and religious groups, professional science and educational organizations, and elected public officials at all levels and in all branches of government. This ACS Climate Science Toolkit is a living dynamic resource with expectations for appropriate modifications. I express deep thanks to Dr. Jerry Bell and the members of the Working Group for their excellent work.

The Council Policy Committee task force studying the duties and responsibilities of CPC also explored the role of ACS in water issues. I am grateful to this group who under the leadership of CPC Vice Chair Dr. Carolyn Ribes has developed an outline for possible action by ACS. We shall expect to hear more from this group in early 2013. Also, I have organized a half-day symposium featuring leading national experts on water at the 2013 spring ACS national meeting in New Orleans.

On the occasion of the Sesqui-centennial of the Morrill Land Grant Act, we marked the contributions of chemistry and chemists. I invite you to watch the press conference <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/24868049>. The papers presented will be published next year in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*.

The ACS Presidential Commission on Advancing Graduate Edu-

cation in the Chemical Sciences under the leadership of Dr. Larry Faulkner is addressing the two major questions I gave them as a charge: "What are the purposes of graduate education in the chemical sciences?" and "What steps should be taken to ensure that important societal issues as well as the needs and aspirations of students are addressed in graduate programs?" The Commission has formed



seven working groups to address current strengths and weaknesses of graduate education at all types of institutions, the profile of graduate students and their employment opportunities, support mechanisms for graduate education, the length of the Ph.D. and postdoctoral programs, and other considerations related to innovations in Ph.D. degree programs, diversity and talent development, and the aspirations of graduate students. The Report of the Commission is due late in 2012 and I will distribute it to all Council members.

Chemistry and chemists have contributed significantly to the quality of life we enjoy now. However, science and society still face daunting challenges. Today our biggest challenge is to help sustain Earth and its people in the face of: population growth, finite resources, malnutrition and obesity,

spreading disease, deadly violence, war, climate change, and the denial of basic human rights, especially the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. A specific challenge for ACS is to clearly articulate our leadership role in both the domestic and international arenas and to devise appropriate strategies to fulfill our mission. Both the Council and the Board of Directors share responsibilities in this matter.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Council for the true cooperative spirit exhibited during my term as presiding officer of the Council. We must expand our efforts in working together with our members toward the fulfillment of the ACS mission. As 2013 ACS Immediate Past President, I look forward to further collaboration with you and all of ACS. Thank you for joining me in doing our best for ACS, for science, and for society.

## CEO, Cont'd

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ored. At the latter meeting in Waltham, Massachusetts, the local section also honored a 70 year member! That's dedication and loyalty! And that is the dedication and loyalty that I see all the time in the ACS Council.

So once again, thank you for all you do for ACS and I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.



### GREAT CHEMISTRY HAPPENS AT REGIONAL MEETINGS 2013

Central  
Regional Meeting (CERM)  
May 14-17  
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Great Lakes  
Regional Meeting (GLRM)  
June 5-8  
La Crosse, WI

Northwest  
Regional Meeting (NORM)  
July 21-24  
Corvallis, OR

Western  
Regional Meeting (WRM)  
October 2-5  
Santa Clara, CA

Midwest  
Regional Meeting (MWRM)  
October 16-19  
Springfield, MO

Northeast  
Regional Meeting (NERM)  
October 23-26  
New Haven, CT

Southeastern  
Regional Meeting  
(SERMACS)  
November 13-16  
Atlanta, GA

Southwest  
Regional Meeting (SWRM)  
November 17-20  
Waco, TX

For more information,  
link to the individual  
meeting sites at  
[www.acs.org/meetings/regional](http://www.acs.org/meetings/regional)