

# The Minnesota Chemist

Official Publication of the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society

Issue 6, November - December 2016



## Greetings from the Chair

Fall is upon us, my yard is filling with leaves and thoughts of elections fill my head

### Section Election

The season has opened for our local section election. With the amendment of our by-laws earlier this year, we are offering an online balloting this year. If you have an email address of record with your ACS membership, you were sent a ballot invitation last Thursday (27 Oct). If you missed the email, you should check your spam / junk folder since the email probably shows itself as noreply@directvote.net (our vendor) and not the MN Local Section. Those without an email address were sent a paper ballot. If you have any question or concerns, please contact me at 763.250.4607 or Russ.Pylkki@tenantco.com. The season comes to a close on the 14th.

### November Section Meeting

The November meeting/Career Fair will be held on 15th of November (Tuesday) at the College of St. Catherine. After the pizza and networking, there will be a presentation: "Career Management Strategies in the Sciences," presented by Amy Lindgren, President and founder Prototype Career Services. Some of you may already be familiar with Ms. Lindgren through her Sunday column in the Pioneer Press (Working Strategies). My desire is that look beyond the job search or career change. I believe this topic will be valuable for many of our members and I encourage you to attend! Did I forget to mention that this is a FREE EVENT?!?

### December Social

The December Social will be held at the Urban Growler (2325 Endicott Sr. Saint Paul) on 13th of December (Tuesday). It is always a nice time to socialize with the other section members and pass the leadership baton to our new Section Chair. Menu and pricing will be posted on the section website soon.

Russ Pylkki <Russ.Pylkki@tenantco.com>



## November 15th: Career Fair

The Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society is pleased to announce our 5th annual Chemistry **Job & Recruiting Fair**



The Chemistry Job and Recruiting Fair will be held from 4-6 pm on **Tuesday, November 15th, 2016** at **Saint Catherine University** in Saint Paul, MN, in the 3rd floor Atrium of the Coeur de Catherine Building.

**The following have confirmed attendance:** Aerotek, Aspen Research, Experis, H.B. Fuller, Kelly Scientific, Medtronic, Medtox Laboratories, On Assignment/Lab Support, Pace Analytical, Land O'Lakes, Tru Vue, Verum Scientific, WuXi AppTec, Minnesota High Tech Forum, University of MN Department of Chemistry, University of MN Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of MN Environmental Health Sciences, Volt Technical Services, and others pending.

This event is an opportunity to meet with technical recruiters from the Twin Cities area and is open to professionals and students from Chemistry and related fields. Sophomore and Junior Chemistry majors are also encouraged to attend to inquire about internships. Please **RSVP to James Wollack (jwwollack@stkate.edu)** by November 5th so there will be an accurate head count for food. Include how many people will be coming from your group and if you intend to stay for dinner and the speaker.

**Location:** St. Catherine's University, 3rd floor Atrium of the Coeur de Catherine Building

**Schedule:**

4-6 pm – Meet with recruiters  
6-6:30 pm – Networking and pizza dinner - 6 pm  
6:30-7:30 pm – Speaker

**Speaker:** Amy Lindgren, Prototype Career Services

**Topic:** Career Management Strategies in the Sciences

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to James Wollack (jwwollack@stkate.edu) by November 5th

**Speaker bio:** Amy Lindgren is president of Prototype Career Service, which she founded in 1985. She writes a weekly employment column which appears in newspapers nationally. An expert job search strategist, Ms. Lindgren is a frequent guest on public and commercial radio programs and the author of the Pocket Job Series set of books.



## Project SEED 2016 - Help this amazing program grow!

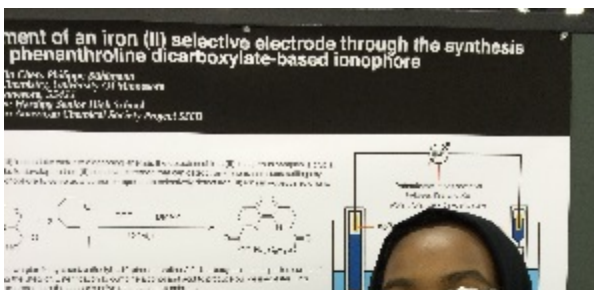
Sarah Mullins, Project SEED Coordinator, MN Local Section

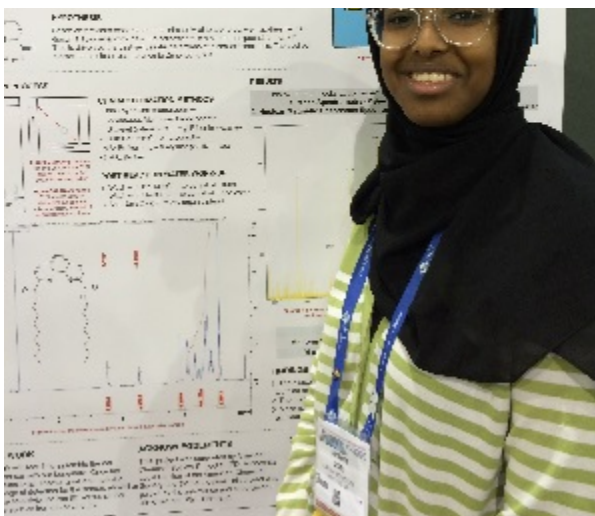
Project SEED had a tremendous year! Six low-income students from St Paul Public High Schools participated in chemistry-based research projects, hosted by faculty from the departments of Chemistry, Horticulture, and Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Thank you to our mentors – your time invested in these students is a key event in their development into professional scientists!

One Summer II student, Harding High School graduate Samsam Dirie, has made the most of her Project SEED experiences. She used her Summer I project under the guidance of Dr. Paul Boswell to win both an ACS Project SEED College Scholarship and to become an ACS Scholar. Samsam presented her Summer II research with Professor Phil Buhlmann at the Sci-Mix at the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia.

*"I recently had the privilege to go to the national 252th American Chemical Society conference in Philadelphia. It was an amazing opportunity that I've learned immensely from. I met a startling concentration of chemist who were so welcoming and excited to talk and share about their work with others. From pharmaceuticals to the environment to regenerative engineering, I learned so much about chemistry and its real-life applications. I also learned about all the educational opportunities available for students studying chemistry. Being at the convention for 2 days was an incredible experience and I am incredibly thankful for all I learned."* -Samsam Dirie

It was a jam-packed two days for Samsam in Philadelphia, attending seminars and connecting with other ACS Scholars, faculty and students at her new school, Tufts University. Talk about making the most of ACS STEM encouragement initiatives. Her enthusiasm for chemistry is infectious!





Samsam Dirie Project SEED at Sci-Mix at the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia

3M Gives Foundation has been a critical partner in making this possible. This grant supported not only the travel costs for Samsam, but it provided student stipends at a competitive pay rate. Project SEED participants come from very low-income households, often well below the poverty line. The summer income earned by these teenagers is often essential support for the family. Without the stipend, these students simply could not participate in a deep intellectual challenge like Project SEED.

Financial support for the Minnesota Section Project SEED program comes from MN Local Section, 3M Gives and matching funds from the ACS National Project SEED Endowment. Each year, the number of participants is set by the funds available at the beginning of the calendar year. **As an ACS member, there are two ways you can support the financial sustainability of Project SEED before the 2016 year end.**

1. Make a tax-deductible, charitable donation to ACS Project SEED Endowment. The funds go 100% to support student stipends. When you renew your ACS membership, look for the line item to donate. Already renewed? Go to the "Donate" button at the middle of the page at this link. [www.acs.org/projectSEED](http://www.acs.org/projectSEED)
2. Check if your employer has grant opportunities available. For example, both HB Fuller and 3M have programs that make a donation on the employee's behalf after a certain number of volunteer hours given to a charitable organization, including MN Local Section ACS. Additionally, does your employer have a foundation that supports STEM initiatives? Would you be an in-house contact for a grant application? If so, contact Sarah Mullins at [smullins44@gmail.com](mailto:smullins44@gmail.com)

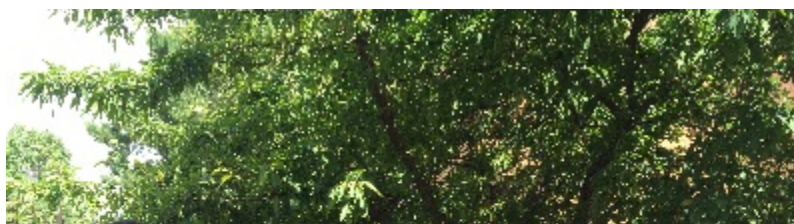
#### **2016 Project SEED Students, Faculty and Student Mentors:**

##### **Summer II:**

Samsam Dirie (Harding HS) – Prof Phil Buhlmann and Xin Chen  
Xatziri Viveros (Washington Technology Magnet HS) – Prof R. Lee Penn and Jonathan Schultz  
Kenny Xiong (Washington Technology Magnet HS) – Prof Wayland Nolan and Matt Huisenga

##### **Summer I:**

Tommy Vang (Washington Technology Magnet HS) – Prof Wayland Nolan and Matt Huisenga  
KhaoNou Lor (Johnson HS) – Prof Romas Kazlauskas and Bryan Jones  
Francisco Balderrama (Harding HS) – Prof Jerry Cohen and Paul Fiesel





Left to right: Francisco Balderrama, Samsam Dirie, Kenny Xiong, KhaoNou Lor, Xatziri Viveros, Tommy Vang



## ACS Senior Chemists' Lunch Meeting on November 16th

Lynn Hartshorn

The next Senior Chemists lunch will be a special free pre-holiday lunch to celebrate two years of the Senior Chemists Group! It will be a pizza and salad buffet at the Green Mill on Hamline and Grand Avenue in St. Paul, on **Wednesday, November 16th** at 11:30 am. Non-alcoholic beverages will be included and you may order and pay for your own wine or beer if you wish. Guests are welcome! You are also welcome to join us if you have not previously attended one of our lunches. We will discuss future program options and there are a couple of potential tours that will be suggested - suggestions for speakers or tours are welcome. Reservations are necessary for this event so the Green Mill knows how many to cater for, so please reply to Lynn Hartshorn at lghartshorn@stthomas.edu by Saturday, November 12th. Free parking is available either on the street, or in the Green Mill parking lot about 50 yards west of the restaurant on the North side of Grand Avenue. We look forward to seeing you!



## Upcoming Chemists-in-the-Library Events

Philippe Buhlmann

November 12 at 1:30 PM – Augsburg Park Library  
December 10 at 1:30 PM – Eden Prairie  
January 21 at 1:30 PM – Brooklyn Park Library  
February 11 at 1:30 PM – St. Louis Park Library



## Jobs

### Manager - Quality Systems and Process Chemistry (QSM)

**Location:** Little Falls, Minnesota

**Closing Date:** November 15th, 2016

**Company:** Green Biologics Inc. - GBI is the wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of Green Biologics Limited, a UK industrial biotechnology and renewable chemicals company focused on production of n-butanol, acetone, and high value specialty chemicals derived from n-butanol and acetone. Green Biologics is starting up their first commercial production facility, a re-purposed 21 MGPY ethanol plant in Little Falls, Minnesota. GBI is focused on collaborating with key downstream partners across a range of markets and industries, including cosmetics and personal care, flavors and food ingredients, specialty lubricants, textiles, paints, coatings, adhesives, inks, sealants, and myriad of industrial applications.

**Role and Responsibilities:** Green Biologics Inc. is recruiting a Manager of Quality Systems & Process Chemistry (QSM) to join the Product Development team to assist with acquisition and interpretation of process data from our commercial facility, Central Minnesota Renewables (CMR). The successful candidate will provide support to the Product Development team and

CMR by running chemical analyses, interpreting QC data, supporting the QC team, and other functions that support the operation of CMR and development of bio-based chemicals and derivatives. The position will be located in Little Falls, Minnesota.

**Qualifications and Education Requirements:** Candidate must have a BSc in chemistry or chemical engineering - Advanced studies in Quality Assurance preferred. Additional qualifications:

- 10+ years total work experience in process chemistry and quality management.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including a superb ability to communicate technical information to nontechnical stakeholders.
- Microsoft-based computer competency, including Office software suite (especially Excel and Outlook).
- ISO 9001 experience, ASQ quality auditor certification, Six Sigma certification preferred.
- Willingness to travel.

**More Details:** More information is available [here](#).

**Apply:** Please apply in writing with a cover letter and CV to the address shown below. Email applications are preferred. Please state clearly in title of the email (or letter) the position that you are applying for:

Human Resources  
Green Biologics Inc.  
10338 Stony Run Lane  
Ashland, VA 23005  
[phyllis.long@greenbiologics.com](mailto:phyllis.long@greenbiologics.com)

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If you have content for The Minnesota Chemist, please send it to Becky Guza, Editor ([becky.guza@hbfuller.com](mailto:becky.guza@hbfuller.com))

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