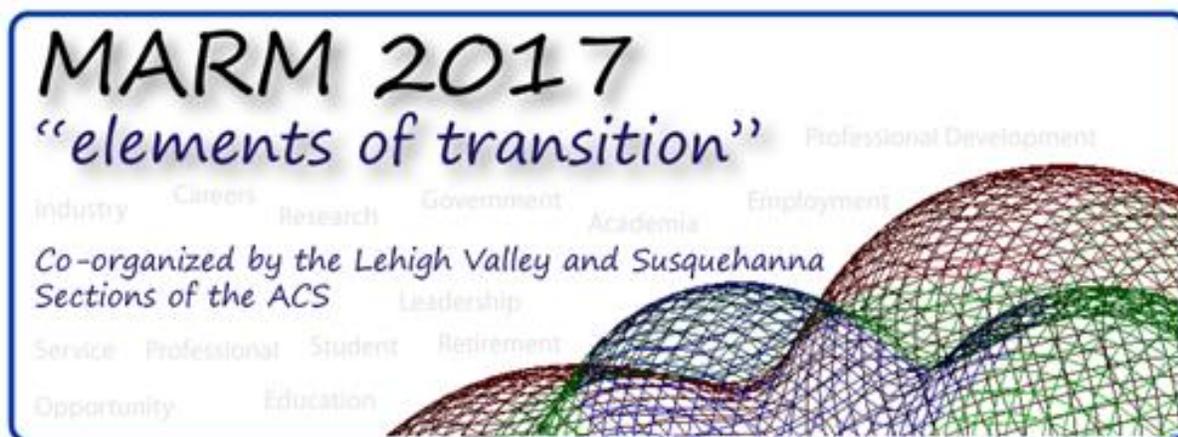




# American Chemical Society Middle Atlantic Region & Northeastern Region 2017 Awards Dinner & Ceremony



Sponsored by the Susquehanna and Lehigh Valley Sections ACS  
Monday, June 5, 2017  
6:00 – 8:00 pm.  
Hershey Lodge  
Hershey, PA



# AWARDEES



## ***Middle Atlantic Regional (MARM):***

- **Ph.D. program in Chemistry at the City University of New York**  
Stanley C. Israel Region Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences
- **Catherine Zavacki**  
The ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Middle Atlantic Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching
- **Chip Nataro**  
E. Emmet Reid Award in Chemistry Teaching at Small Colleges in the ACS Mid-Atlantic Region
- **Professor JaimeLee Iolani Rizzo**  
E. Ann Nalley Middle Atlantic Region Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society
- **NCW – New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) Program**  
Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Region Award

## ***Northeastern Region (NERACS):***

- **Julianne M. Smist**  
E. Ann Nalley Middle Atlantic Region Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society
- **Maggie H. Estlinbaum**  
The ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Middle Atlantic Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

## **Stanley C. Israel Region Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences**

To recognize individuals and/or institutions that have advanced diversity in the chemical sciences and significantly stimulated or fostered activities that promote inclusiveness within the region.

Sponsored by the Committee on Minority Affairs of the American Chemical Society



Stanley C. Israel

### **2017 MARM Recipient: the Ph.D. program in Chemistry at the City University of New York**

Diversity and inclusion are ingrained into the DNA of the PhD Program in Chemistry at the City University of New York that serves the largest urban university in the United States. A long-term and sustained commitment to diversity in faculty hiring, promotion and retention at the CUNY campuses has resulted in a richly diverse doctoral chemistry faculty by all measures. The present Chemistry Doctoral Faculty of ninety chemists boasts 34% female faculty and 7% faculty from minority groups underrepresented in science compared to national averages of 19% and 4%, respectively. This attention to diversity is also evident in the degrees awarded, 29% of all their PhD graduates are women, and in the undergraduate population that they serve at the various CUNY campuses.

The PhD Program in Chemistry will be represented by:

Brian R. Gibney, PhD

Executive Officer, PhD Program in Chemistry of the City University of New York

## The ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Middle Atlantic Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

To recognize, encourage, and stimulate outstanding teachers of high school chemistry in the Middle Atlantic Region.



MARM 2017 Recipient: Catherine Zavacki, Hillsborough High School, Hillsborough, NJ

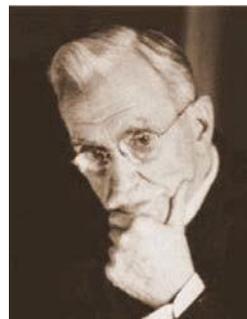
Cathy Zavacki has been a Chemistry teacher at Hillsborough High School in Hillsborough, NJ since 2000. She has her undergraduate degree from Bloomsburg University, a Master's degree in education through the Regional Training Center, Gratz College and over 60 post-masters graduate credits. Cathy is also a graduate instructor for the Regional Training Center instructing courses on both Motivation and Kinesthetic learning. In 2016, Cathy was recognized as the Chemistry Teacher of the Year for the Princeton and Trenton sections of the ACS.

Cathy's focus as a teacher is on reaching students at all levels of learning and using novel teaching techniques to do so. She is an innovative teacher that is passionate about working with struggling learners. She works collaboratively with her special education co-teacher to ensure success for all of their students in the classroom. Cathy is an advocate of Kinesthetic learning and shares her expertise in Kinesthetic learning by co-presenting at the New Jersey Science Teacher's Conference (2015) and most recently presented at the Kentucky Science Teacher's Association Conference (2016). This summer she will be co-presenting two workshops on Kinesthetic Chemistry and Chemistry for the Struggling Learner at ChemEd17 at the University of South Dakota.

Cathy's principal stated, "It can be easy to be an Advanced Placement or honors teacher, but it is a true gift to be able to teach all levels, including special education students, with the same adeptness and enthusiasm. Mrs. Zavacki has always managed to find a way to appeal to her students bring them to be excited and willing participants in the scientific inquiry that occurs in her classroom."

## **E. Emmet Reid Award in Chemistry Teaching at Small Colleges in the ACS Mid-Atlantic Region**

To recognize, encourage, and stimulate high quality teaching and research at small colleges.  
Administered by the Organizing Committee of MARM.



E. Emmet Reid

### **MARM 2017 Recipient: Professor Chip Nataro, Lafayette College**

Chip Nataro obtained his B.S. degree from Messiah College in 1991. He earned his PhD with Bob Angelici at Iowa State University where he studied the protonation of metal-metal bonds. Nataro went to the University of Vermont for his post doc where he split time learning about inorganic polymers with Chris Allen and organometallic electrochemistry with Bill Geiger. He has been at Lafayette since 1999 and has worked with 65 undergraduate research students and three high school students. He and his students perform research in organometallic chemistry with a particular fondness for bis(phosphino)ferrocene ligands. The group studies the electrochemistry, catalytic activity and coordination modes of these ligands. He and his students have published 36 papers detailing this work. Nataro teaches inorganic and general chemistry at Lafayette. He is a member of the leadership council of the Interactive Online Network of Inorganic Chemists (IONiC) most known for the Virtual Inorganic Pedagogical Electronic Resource (VIPeR) website, has participated in writing inorganic exams for the ACS exams institute and was the preceptor recipient of the ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Award for Undergraduate Research in 2013. He has also taught a first year seminar course on baseball and coaches the club baseball team at Lafayette. His amazing and understanding wife (June 6<sup>th</sup> marks a big anniversary), S. Leigh Nataro, is chair of the math department at Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, PA where his daughter, Cassie, is a rising senior.

## **E. Ann Nalley Middle Atlantic Region Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society**

To recognize the volunteer efforts of individuals who have served the American Chemical Society, contributing significantly to the goals and objectives of the Society through their Regional Activities.



### **MARM 2017 Recipient: Professor JaimeLee Iolani Rizzo**

Dr. JaimeLee Iolani Rizzo is Professor and Assistant Chair of Chemistry and Physical Sciences at Pace University, NYC. She was born and raised in Hawai'i and a graduate of the prestigious Kamehameha Schools. She relocated to New York and is referred to as a "fiver" – a five time graduate of CUNY. She earned an A.S., B.A, M.A. M. Phil, and Ph.D. all through the City University of New York's educational system.

Dr. Rizzo's work involves the synthesis and characterization of materials bearing antimicrobial activity where she has 15 patents and numerous publications and presentations relating to her work. She is also a co-author of two textbooks, "Phosphorus Chemistry" and "Organic Chemistry".

Dr. Rizzo serves as the Coordinator of the Professions in Health Advisory Team (PHAT) and as Faculty Advisor for Pace's Chemistry Club for the past 7 years where her Student Chapter has been awarded Honorary Mention for 3 consecutive years. She was the 2012 Chair of the New York Section of the ACS and currently serves as a Councilor for the Section. Her service to the Section also includes the following: Co-Chair of the Student Activities Committee (6 years), Project Leader of the National Chemistry Week Committee (6 years), and Session Organizer for MARM in 2008 and 2016. She was awarded two Community Interaction Grants in 2015 and 2016 for the development of an event where high school students spend the day shadowing Pace's majors and where Pace's majors spend the day at a local high school to help foster the importance of a higher education in the chemical sciences. Her most significant contribution to the Section was the development of a Chemists Celebrate Earth Day event where over 150 participants gather from local schools and institutions with their friends and families. Following a keynote address, participants parade over the iconic Brooklyn Bridge to help bring awareness of the importance of chemistry and the various ways it can help to conserve our planet. She was awarded an Innovation Project Grant for this new CCED event and has been organizing it for the past 6 years.

## Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Region Award

To encourage and recognize successful and exemplary partnerships. These partnerships can be between industry, academia, government, small business and/or other organizations, including ACS local sections, ACS divisions, ACS international chapter, other societies or various entities domestic or overseas resulting in impactful outcomes in one or more of the following categories: improving the public perception and appreciation for chemistry; promoting career advancement opportunities and/or supporting entrepreneurship in the chemistry enterprise; advancing advocacy efforts with government and other thought leaders; supporting STEM education and/or research.

Award created by Marinda Li Wu during her ACS Presidency; now supported by the MARM board.

### MARM 2017 Recipient: NCW – New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) Program

The award-winning partners were the New York Hall of Science, the ACS New York Section, St. John's University and their student ACS chapter, the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and PepsiCo.

The New York Local Section (NYACS) is proud decade-long partner of the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) in present a fun-filled day of experimentation and exploration of chemistry during National Chemistry Week. The partnership has positive impacts on there of the Partners for Prosperity and Progress Award:

- Improving the public perception and appreciate for chemistry  
The celebration of National Chemistry Week at the New York Hall of Science is the foremost outreach activity of the New York Local Section. The event attracted 1,180 visitors to the NYSCI last year. The majority of the visitors to the hands-on demonstrations at NCW are grade school children and their parents who come from the diversity that is New York City. The success of the event is the combination of volunteers in the NYACS collaborating with the staff of NYSCI and volunteers from industry putting together thought provoking scientific demonstrations suitable for grade school children in a safe and supportive environment. The energy in the room is fantastic as the visitors are shown the positive impact of chemistry on their lives. The NYSCI is a great venue in which to improve the public's perception of chemistry, chemists and the chemical enterprise.
- Advancing advocacy efforts with government and other thought leaders  
Each year, the NYACS Coordinator of NCW reaches out to local dignitaries and politicians to participate in the festivities. Recently, New York State Senator Jose Peralta (2016) and New York Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott (2013) have visited the celebration of National Chemistry Week at the NYSCI. This provides the NYACS and NYSCI the opportunity to open a dialogue with which to advocate for chemistry with local and state leaders.
- Supporting STEM education and/or research  
The celebration of National Chemistry Week at the NYSCI brings together chemistry faculty and undergraduate students from the around the region. The faculty and undergraduates collaborate on deciding which chemistry demo to present, and how best to present the underlying chemical principles. This helps the undergraduates learn how to articulate complex chemical principles using everyday language that grade school children can understand. In addition, the undergraduates are tasked with maintaining a safe working environment. Approximately 35 NYSCI Staff members actively participated in Chemistry Day.

Julianne M. Smist, NERM 2017 Awardee of the  
E. Ann Nalley Northeast Region Award for  
Volunteer Service  
to the American Chemical Society

Julianne Smist embarked on her professional career by earning the Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at Elms College in 1972, her M.S. in Physical Chemistry from Boston College in 1974, and the Ph.D. degree at the University of Connecticut in 1996. Dr. Smist started her college-teaching career at American International College in Springfield, MA, followed by an appointment at Westfield State College in Westfield, MA. In 1982 Julie moved to Springfield College, where she has been ever since, moving through the ranks to Professor of Chemistry. Since 2013, she has been serving as the Chair of the Biology/Chemistry Department.



Julie started her volunteer service to the American Chemical Society (ACS) in 1986, as Secretary of the Connecticut Valley Local Section, a post she still holds! It was not long before Julie moved to service at the national level – in 2000 she was elected to represent her local section as Councilor, a position she currently serves in as well. As Councilor, Julie has been very active in the Division of Chemical Education (CHED). She has served on the Membership Committee, and on the Program Committee where she continues to be active with CHED. Julie has also been on additional national committees concurrently. From 2001 to 2007 she was a member of the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E), where she chaired the M&E Subcommittee on Site Selection. In 2008, Julie moved to the Committee on Divisional Activities, serving as its secretary, as well as chairing its Subcommittee on Communication and Technology.

Also at the regional level, Dr. Smist has contributed her valuable skills and time. She was one of the founding officers of the Northeast Region of the American Chemical Society (NERACS), which was incorporated in 2005. Julie served the initial term of Chair from 2005 to 20012. Overseeing regional meetings is the most prominent activity carried out by NERACS. Dr. Smist has been active at Northeast Regional Meetings (NERMs) sponsored by her local section. She was Arrangements Chair for NERM 1991, Exposition Chair for NERM 2000, and General Chair for NERM 2009.

Considering the breadth and depth of her service to the ACS, without any doubt Julianne Smist's various contributions to the greater ACS emphatically point to a well-deserved selection as the Northeast Region's 2017 E. Ann Nalley Volunteer Service Award.

Maggie H. Estlinbaum, NERM 2017 Awardee of the ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching



Maggie Estlinbaum earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry from Colorado College in 2000. After working for an environmental organization for a couple of years, Maggie's interest turned to teaching. Thus in 2006 she earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from the State University of New York at Cortland.

It was in 2006 that Maggie started her teaching career at Jordan-Elbridge High School in Jordan, NY. From 2006 until 2015 she taught in the Syracuse University Project Advance Chemistry program, as well as teaching AP Chemistry, Regents Chemistry, and General Chemistry. Having been recognized for her leadership skills, she served a number of years as the Science Department Chair and Team Leader.

In 2015 Maggie moved to Liverpool High School in Liverpool, NY. There she continues as a Master Teacher for STEM, a recognition accorded by the State of New York to Ms. Estlinbaum since 2013. Maggie has rounded out her excellent contributions in the teaching and administration of chemistry by extramural involvement in the teaching profession. Of the many professional involvements, in 2017 alone she has contributed to scholarly presentations with the titles of "Differentiating Instruction in the High School Chemistry Classroom", "Getting Started in the High School Chemistry Lab: A Hands-On Workshop for New and Pre-Service Chemistry Teachers", and "Developing Collaborations between Math and Science through a Sustainability Curriculum".

Ms. Estlinbaum has been active in many volunteer activities; it is fitting that many of these are under the mantle of the American Chemical Society (ACS), with the award being sponsored by the chemists' professional organization. Maggie serves as Liverpool High School's ACS ChemClub Advisor, as she had been at Jordan-Elbridge since 2013. Two other contributions of note are her 10-year tenure as Science Olympiad Advisor, and her volunteer work as an ACS Science Coach.

In summarizing her qualities, the words of her nominator, Sally Mitchell say it best: "Maggie Estlinbaum has stimulated the curiosity within many students, and then inspired them to develop a sound basis for comprehension of chemistry and skilled laboratory practice." Accordingly, Maggie Estlinbaum is clearly deserving of the 2017 ACS-CHED Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



MARM 2017 has been organized jointly by the Susquehanna and Lehigh Valley Sections of the American Chemical Society. All of those involved in this meeting are honored to recognize the contributions of the individuals listed in this program.

Appreciation for the MARM awards goes to the selections committee: Jeanne Berk, Lee Silverberg, Andrea Martin and Coleen Mikucki. The Awards Committee is indebted to the efforts of the nominators from the local sections. We also acknowledge support from the ACS Middle Atlantic Regional Board, the ACS Office of Regional Meetings and Expositions, ACS Committee on Minority Affairs and the Division of Chemical Education (CHED).

The Middle Atlantic Region Board expresses its deep appreciation to Leisha Kreider (Manager, Convention Services), Christine Stuart (Corporate Sales Manager), Kendyll Heier (Sales Manager, PSAV), Michele Maxwell (Manager, Group Reservation) as representative of Hershey Lodge in organizing this event.