



# NEWSLETTER

## Oklahoma Section American Chemical Society

Volume 24 Number 4

<http://oklahoma.sites.acs.org/>

November 2019

Section Meeting  
Thursday 14 Nov 2019

### BACK TO THE FUTURE

FROM FOSSIL CHEMICAL FEEDSTOCKS  
TO RENEWABLES ONES.  
Personal Perspectives  
on the Development of Useful  
Transition Metal-Mediated Reactions



Kenneth M. Nicholas

*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK*

Transition metal-promoted reactions have played a central role in both laboratory and industrial chemical processes for over a hundred years. In keeping with 2019's International Year of the Periodic Table and National Chemistry Week's celebration of Marvelous Metals I will highlight three projects from our research group that illustrate the changing focus and opportunities in the development of transition metal-promoted reactions over the past 50 years: 1) the stabilization and re-

*continued on page 2 with the speaker's biographical sketch. →*

**Oklahoma State University**  
Edmond Low Library  
Peggy Helmerich Browsing Room  
2nd Floor, East Side  
Stillwater, OK 74078

6:00 pm Reception  
6:30–7:30 pm Dinner  
7:30–8:30 pm Presentation

Park in lot 31



flyer + directions



OSU parking map

map & info: <https://geosys.okstate.edu/interactive-maps/>

### Dinner Reservation Information

#### Buffet Menu Catered by the Rib Crib

Boneless Chicken	\$16 members
Brisket	\$5 students
Cowboy Beans	
Potato Salad	
Peach or Blackberry Cobbler	
Ice Tea and Lemonade	

#### RSVP Deadline

Tuesday 12 Nov 5 pm  
Contact: Allen Applett  
405-744-5943

[allen.applett@okstate.edu](mailto:allen.applett@okstate.edu)

*RSVP is NOT required to attend the presentation.*

### NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK EVENT

Marvelous Metals

**SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER**



### SCIENCE MUSEUM OKLAHOMA

When: Saturday 26 October 2019  
(9:00 am to 2:00 pm)

Where: Science Museum Oklahoma  
2100 NE 52nd St, OKC

### We need volunteers and ideas!

contact for details or to volunteer

Michael Ferguson (405-974-5391) [jferguson@uco.edu](mailto:jferguson@uco.edu)

Please let Mike know how many people you are bringing and/or what displays and demonstrations you would like to bring. We need to let SMO know how many people are coming, what we will be bringing, and how many tables we will need to use. The deadline for letting them know is Friday, Oct 25 at 1 pm. Anyone who is bringing materials or chemicals can either bring them on Friday, Oct 25 after 3 pm or at 9 am on Saturday, Oct 26. (There will be a secure room for storing items overnight.)



### OK ACS SECTION ELECTIONS

Ballot in this Newsletter

**Cast Ballots due on or before 5 PM on 14 Nov**



# 2019 PENTASECTIONAL MEETING

Photo Galley (pages 2-3), photo credit: Nick Materer



(Speaker—continued from front page)

activity of coordinated carbocations; 2) the activation and chemical conversion of abundant and climate-changing carbon dioxide; and 3) the deoxygenation and refunctionalization of renewable polyols.

## Kenneth Nicholas Biographical Sketch

Kenneth M. Nicholas of the University of Oklahoma's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has been selected as the 2019 recipient of the Oklahoma Chemist Award for his outstanding contributions to the discovery, fundamental understanding and applications of chemical reactions promoted by transition metal compounds. With a primary focus on examining the reactivity of metal-coordinated molecules his research group's studies have centered on: 1) the stability and reactivity of metal-coordinated unsaturated organic species; 2) carbon dioxide activation/conversion promoted by transition metals; 3) the metal-promoted nitrogenation of hydrocarbons; 4) bio-inspired transition metal catalysis; and 4) the catalytic deoxygenation and refunctionalization of renewable chemical resources. Prof. Nicholas and his co-workers have published approximately 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and 3 US Patents. Dr. Nicholas has supervised and mentored approximately 60 undergraduate research assistants, 16 MS degree recipients, 26 PhDs and 38 postdoctoral research fellows, almost all of whom have enjoyed successful careers in industry, medicine, government or academia. Dr. Nicholas has been recognized for his teaching and research accomplishments by the A.P. Sloan Foundation, the University of Oklahoma Regents, by the American Chemical Society's A.C. Cope Scholar Award (for research excellence in organic chemistry), and as a George Lynn Cross Research Professor, the highest research award at OU. Dr. Nicholas earned a BS in Chemistry from Stony Brook University (NY), his PhD in Chemistry from U. Texas (Austin), did postdoctoral work at Brandeis University, and was on the faculty at Boston College (1973-1984) before joining the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma in 1984.







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Chemistry for Life™



## CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

### 2020 Calendar

- March 1–31 — Local Section Competitions
- April 18–26 — National Exam (exact date TBA)
- June — Study Camp
- July 6–15 — 52th IChO Istanbul, Turkey

Contact Reza Latifi for more information

[reza.latifi@okstate.edu](mailto:reza.latifi@okstate.edu) 405.744.4330

*If your school has not participated before please contact Reza so he knows that you are interested and has good contact information.*

## SOLICITING NOMINATIONS

### Oklahoma Section Awards for Undergraduate Students

- The *Roger Baldwin Graduate Student Award* provides \$500 for students entering graduate school in chemistry or a chemistry related field. The application deadline is May first every year.
- The *Terrill Smith Travel Award* is a grant of up to \$600 for travel to present a paper or poster at a national or regional ACS meeting. The application deadline is 4 weeks prior to the meeting start date.

For more information and forms please visit the web site:

<http://oklahoma.sites.acs.org/undergraduateawards.htm>

—Chuck Rice (Awards Committee)



## SWRM 2023 OKC

*hosted by the Oklahoma Section*



## Oklahoma Chemist Award 2020 Call for Nominations

Five (5) copies of a single nomination should be sent no later than **14 February 2020** to:

Dr. K. Darrell Berlin  
Chair, Oklahoma Chemist Awards Committee  
Department of Chemistry  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
(405) 744-5950  
[kenneth.d.berlin@okstate.edu](mailto:kenneth.d.berlin@okstate.edu)

### Criteria and Guidelines for the Preparation of the Nomination and for Selection of the Recipient

1. A nomination letter for the candidate by a colleague, friend, etc.
2. A complete, up-to-date resume of the candidate.
3. A two-page "highlight" of the candidate's major accomplishments.
4. Five (5) letters of support for the nominee.
  - a) Two (2) letters from colleagues at the candidate's place of employment.
  - b) Three (3) letters from outside the candidate's place of employment.
 Letters from individuals with expertise in the candidate's field are especially welcomed.
5. Special information on the candidate is also solicited, especially as to how the candidate has advanced chemistry in the state of Oklahoma.
6. Candidates may be involved in research or in chemical education within the state.

## Does ACS have your current email address?

### Quick facts

- The Oklahoma section of the ACS membership is 492
- Only 475 of you have submitted email addresses to the ACS.
- Of the 475, approximately 15 addresses are undeliverable.

### 2019 Oklahoma ACS Section Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

Naga Rama Kothapalli	Chair
Stephanie L. Skiles	Chair Elect
Allen Applebitt	Immediate Past Chair
Lloyd A. Bumm	Secretary + interim Newsletter ed.
Jason Wickham	Treasurer
Allen Applebitt	Councilor + Nominations Com.
Nicholas F. Materer	Alternate Councilor
Charles V. Rice	Awards Com.
Reza Latifi	Chemistry Olympiad Com.
John Michael Ferguson	National Chemistry Week Com.
Cheryl Frech	Public Relations
Nicholas F. Materer	Web Master



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Norman, OK  
Permit No. 88



OK ACS web  
QR code

## Oklahoma ACS Calendar of Events.

Visit the Oklahoma ACS WWW site for the latest information.

<http://oklahoma.sites.acs.org/>

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 2019 Dates & Speakers

**Oct (16–18) MWRM 2019**  
Wichita, KS

**Oct (20–26) National Chemistry Week**  
*Marvelous Metals*

**Oct 26 (Sat) NCW Event at Science Museum Oklahoma**

**Nov (13–16) SWRM 2019**  
El Paso, TX

**Nov 14 (Thu) OSU, OK Chemist**  
Kenneth Nicholas, Dept of Chem & Biochem, Univ Oklahoma, Norman, OK  
*Back to the Future: From Fossil Chemical Feedstocks to Renewables Ones.*  
*Personal Perspectives on the Development of Useful*  
*Transition Metal-Mediated Reactions*

**2023 SWRM 2023**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
*hosted by the Oklahoma section*

**National  
Chemistry  
Week**

