



# NACS Newsletter

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WWW.NACATSOC.ORG



2017 Michel Boudart  
Award for Advances in Catal-  
ysis



2017 Paul H. Emmett Award  
in Fundamental Catalysis



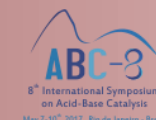
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# NAM25

DENVER, CO

NORTH AMERICAN  
CATALYSIS SOCIETY MEETING  
**JUNE 4-9, 2017**  
MILE HIGH  
CATALYSIS

## Bruce Gates is the recipient of the 2017 Michel Boudart Award for Advances in Catalysis

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**Directors-at-Large:** Jingguang G. Chen, Columbia University; Robert J. Davis, University of Virginia; Maria Flytzani-Stephanopoulos, Tufts University; Bruce Gates, University of California at Davis; Fabio H. Ribeiro, Purdue University; Stuart L. Soled, ExxonMobil.

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We are pleased to announce that Professor Bruce Gates of the University of California at Davis is the recipient of the 2017 Michel Boudart Award for Advances in Catalysis. This award is sponsored

by the Haldor Topsøe Company and is administered jointly by the North American Catalysis Society and the European Federation of Catalysis Societies. The presentation to Professor Gates will be made at both the 25th North American Meeting of the Catalysis Society (Denver, June 2017) and the Europacat XIII Meeting (Florence, Italy, August 2017).

The Michel Boudart Award recognizes and encourages individual contributions to the elucidation of the mechanism and active sites involved in catalytic phenomena and to the development of new methods or concepts that advance the understanding and the practice of heterogeneous catalysis. It

recognizes individuals who bring together the rigor and the international impact that exemplified the accomplishments and the career of Professor Michel Boudart.

Professor Gates is being recognized for his pioneering contributions to the field of supported molecular catalysis. His work can be credited directly with stimulating the area of single site supported metal catalysis and has led to accessible and well defined families of precise catalytic structures (such as dimers and 4 atom clusters) which are intermediate between single atom metal complexes and metal particles. These advances, for which he and his group are widely known to be world leading, arise from the integrated combination of highly targeted organometallic synthesis, detailed spectroscopic characterization and rigorous performance evaluation underpinned by computational modelling. By exerting control over the electronic properties and dispersion of systems through modifi-

cation of ligand environment, molecularity and support effects, Professor Gates and his group have been able to tailor the catalytic properties of materials in a controlled manner. Through the application of IR and x-ray absorption spectroscopy to working systems, the crucial influence of the support upon the identities of intermediates and metal-support interactions has been clearly elucidated for reactions such as olefin hydrogenation and oligomerization. Professor Gates' work has also resulted in unprecedented advances in the understanding of the interconversion of species arising from changes to reaction atmosphere and structure-function relationships at the atomic scale. Such advances were not previously achieved in the mechanistic description of surface catalysis.

## Suljo Linic is the recipient of the 2017 Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis



**W**e are pleased to announce that Professor Suljo Linic of the University of Michigan is the recipient of the 2017 Paul H. Emmett Award in Fun-

damental Catalysis, sponsored by W.R. Grace & Co. and administered by The North American Catalysis Society. The Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of \$5,000. The plaque will be presented during the closing banquet ceremonies at the 25th NAM meeting in Denver. Professor Linic will also present a plenary lecture during the conference.

The Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis is given in recognition of substantial individual contributions in the field of catalysis with emphasis on discovery and understanding of catalytic phenomena, proposal of catalytic reaction mechanisms and identification of and description of catalytic

sites and species. More information on this award and the award process can be found at: <http://nacatsoc.org/awards/emmett/>

The award recognizes Professor Linic for groundbreaking contributions at the interface of heterogeneous catalysis, surface chemistry, nanoscience, and computational catalysis. These include his work in plasmon driven catalysis that has opened new ways to introduce energy into chemically reacting systems, his combined use of experimental and theoretical approaches to advance molecular understanding of epoxidation catalysis as well as his development of predictive structure performance relationships for metal alloys that has led to the design of novel alloy catalysts for electrochemical oxygen reduction and hydrocarbon oxidation reactions.

*Bruce R. Cook*

Vice President, North American Catalysis Society

## Elections for Director-at-Large

**T**he election for Directors-at-Large is scheduled to start on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. NACS will be using online balloting as the only way to cast your vote. We have contracted with a firm that is experienced in on-line voting to ensure the accuracy and confidentiality of the process.

You will be receiving two email messages before the start of the election with the subject headline "NACS ELECTIONS FOR DIRECTORS-at-LARGE". The first email will be in your mail box in a few days containing a PDF with the biography of all the candidates. The second email will be containing your username, unique password and a link to a restricted voting webpage. Please don't delete this email until you cast your vote. If you have a problem receiving this email, then you need to contact Edrick Morales at [edrickmorales@live.com](mailto:edrickmorales@live.com).

The voting site's log in page will have instructions on how to cast your electronic ballot with links to technical assistance in case you have difficulty logging into the site .

You can cast your vote starting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The voting webpage will be held open for three weeks to those members of NACS (including students) who reside within North America. Background information for each candidate will be available on the ballot site with a hyperlink associated to each candidate's name. On the ballot website, you will be selecting only six (6) or less members from the 13 candidates for the office of Director-at-Large. The top six candidates will be elected to office.

Voters will need to log back in and complete the ballot from scratch if they log out or close the browser window without submitting their ballot. Your password will be deactivated after you record your vote.

Links to download the candidate biographies and access the balloting website will be available on the Home page of the NACS website.

The online balloting website will close on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Jeffery Bricker is named the recipient of the 2017 Eugene J. Houdry Award of the North American Catalysis Society



**D**r. Jeffery Bricker, Senior Director of Research at Honeywell UOP is the recipient of the 2017 Eugene J. Houdry Award of the North American Catalysis Society. The Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis is sponsored by Clariant. It is administered by The Catalysis Society and awarded biennially in odd-numbered years. This award recognizes and encourages individual contributions in the field of catalysis

with emphasis on the development of new and improved catalysts and processes representing outstanding advances in their useful application. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$5,000, which will be presented at the 25th North American Meeting of the Catalysis Society to be held in Denver, CO, June 4–9, 2017. The Award Plenary lecture will also be presented during this meeting.

Dr. Bricker's achievements include the discovery of key reaction mechanisms in thiol oxidation chemistry in refinery fuels, leading to the commercialization of an oxidation catalyst that functions in the absence of caustic. He also invented new light paraffin dehydrogenation catalysts with superior diffusional properties, that is currently used in more than 60 percent of worldwide on-demand capacity. He invented and developed a very selective and stable catalyst for the oxidation of hydrogen for inter-stage reheating in ethylbenzene dehydrogenation for

commercial styrene production. Finally, Dr. Bricker and his team used diffusion control to improve the dehydrogenation technology for production of linear alkyl benzenes (LAB), which are the precursors for biodegradable detergents. LAB is produced by selective dehydrogenation of linear C10 to C15 alkanes into linear mono-alkenes followed by alkylation with benzene. This new catalyst technology reduces by-product heavy alkylate by 20 percent and is used to produce more than 80 percent of the world's LAB.

Bricker received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry from Heidelberg University in 1979 and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from The Ohio State University in 1983. Jeff's innovations and 61 US patents have been recognized with several awards including the 2011 ACS National Award for Creative Invention; the UOP Stine Star Award, given for the best breakthrough of the year; Specialty Materials Growth and Innovation Award and the 2015

Honeywell Distinguished Technologist Award, given for outstanding technical contributions over the course of a career. He frequently lectures on catalysis globally and was the 2008 Devon W. Meek Lecturer.

*Enrique Iglesia*  
President, North American Catalysis Society



## **Gary L. Haller is the recipient of the 2016 NACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Catalysis**



I am pleased to announce that Professor Gary L. Haller has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 NACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Catalysis. The Award is presented every two years to recognize an individual who has advanced catalytic chemistry or engineering through both significant service to the catalysis community and outstanding technical accomplishments. This award includes

an honorarium (\$5,000) and a plaque. It is awarded by the North American Catalysis Society and sponsored by ExxonMobil and Clariant and will be presented to Professor Haller during the 2017 NAM in Denver.

This award acknowledges Professor Haller's commitment to the catalysis community and his selfless dedication to the advancement of the field. He has served as a teacher and researcher, as a caring mentor of students and younger faculty, and as a warmly regarded academic leader. Gary Haller has served the community in many key leadership positions throughout his career. His roles as Editor of the Journal of Catalysis and as General Chairman of the 11th International Congress on Catalysis brought vision, effective planning, and sensitivity to the many constituencies served and left a lasting impact and an enduring example of service in our community. He served as President and Vice-President of The Catalysis Society, as well as a member

of its Board of Directors. He has been a member of the board of editors and editorial boards for American Scientist, Catalysis Reviews, Journal of Catalysis, Catalysis Letters, Reaction Kinetics and Catalysis Letters, and Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical. He has been the Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Catalysis and of the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. In these roles, through his vision and example, he has served as a role model for those who followed him in such roles.

His technical accomplishments and those of his academic progeny have been widely recognized for bringing new understanding about how supports influence the reactivity of dispersed metal particles and how structure affects the behavior of acid sites in oxides. His work has advanced, conceptually and practically, our understanding of the catalytic properties of carbon nanotubes. He has been a pioneer in harnessing the power of spectroscopic

methods for the benefit of catalytic understanding. For these contributions he has been recognized with the Burwell Lectureship (Catalysis Society) Netherlands Institute for Catalysis Research Lectureship, the Lacey Lectureship (Caltech), the Ipatieff Professorship (Northwestern), the Harry Fair Lectureship (Oklahoma), the Yale Science and Engineering Association Award for Meritorious Service, the Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York Award for Excellence in Catalysis, the George C. A. Schuit Lectureship (Delaware).

On behalf of our members, we convey warm congratulations to Professor Gary Haller along with our gratitude for his contributions and for his example.

*Enrique Iglesia*

President, North American Catalysis Society

*Bruce Cook*


Vice President, North American Catalysis Society

## ABC Young Scientist Award

The Acid Base Catalysis Group invites nominations for the ABC Young Scientist Award. The award will be given to a single person who has made novel and promising contributions to the field of acid and/or base catalysis and is less than 45 years old on May 7, 2017. The awardee will be invited to present a lecture at the 8th International Symposium on Acid-Base Catalysis in Rio 2017.

Nomination packages should include a nomination letter, a one-page CV, a one-page research highlight, a list of publications, two letters of recommendation, and up to three electronic reprints of relevant publications. Self-nomination is excluded. The package should consist of a single pdf file and should be submitted per email no later than March 17, 2017. Inquiries and nomination packages should be directed to the President of the Acid Base Catalysis Group, Takashi Tatsumi, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan.

Email: [tatsumi-takashi@nite.go.jp](mailto:tatsumi-takashi@nite.go.jp);  
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NORTH AMERICAN CATALYSIS SOCIETY

# NAM25

Meeting Dates: June 4-9, 2017  
Exhibit Dates: June 5-7, 2017

Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel • Denver, CO, USA



# Organizing Committee



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Jennifer Nieweg (Albemarle)



**DENVER, CO** JUNE 4-9, 2017, [www.NAM25.org](http://www.NAM25.org)

We invite you to join us at the 25<sup>th</sup> North American Catalysis Society Meeting to be held from June 4-9, 2017 in Denver, Colorado, at the Hyatt Regency Convention Center and Hotel. The meeting will be the premier scientific event in the field of catalysis research and development in 2017, and will feature technological challenges, breakthrough discoveries, and state-of-the-art academic and industrial research.



25<sup>th</sup>  
North  
American  
Catalysis  
Society Meeting



**Denver, Colorado**  
**June 4-9, 2017**

**Hyatt Regency Denver**



## Southeastern Catalysis Society

The Southeastern Catalysis Society (SECS) held its 15th Annual Symposium at the Crowne Plaza Resort on September 18th and 19th, 2016. The meeting began on Sunday evening with the SECS-Eastman poster session featuring 28 contributed posters. A short oral presentation session followed the poster session. All talks in this session were given by faculty. Next were dinner and the keynote lecture from Shell Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Matthew Neurock, who is the winner of the North American Catalysis Society Robert Burwell Lectureship. Professor Neurock's after-dinner lecture was titled "*Engineering Molecular Transformations over Supported Metal Catalysts for the Sustainable Conversion of Biomass-Derived Intermediates to Chemicals and Fuels*". On Monday, September 19th, the Symposium continued with 20 oral presentations.

Student oral and poster presentation competition winners were presented cash awards sponsored by Altamira and Eastman, respectively. Presentation Awards: 1st place winner – Cameron J. Bodenschatz of Clemson University with



Caption: The SECS presented a plaque to Eastman Chemical for their 15 years of sponsorship of the SECS Symposium. From L to R: Rachel Getman (SECS Secretary), Aditya "Ashi" Savara (SECS Webmaster), Carsten Sievers (SECS Past President), Zhufang Liu (Eastman Chemical), Todd Toops (SECS Treasurer), John Kuhn (SECS President). Not pictured is Siris Laursen, who is the SECS Vice President.

the presentation "*Molecular-Level Insights into the Role of Water on the Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Aqueous Phase Pt(111)-Catalyzed Methanol Dehydrogenation*". Cameron is advised by Prof. Rachel B. Getman. 2nd place winner – Zheng Li of Virginia Tech with the presentation "*Developing a Machine Learning Approach to Electrocatalyst Discovery*". Zheng is advised by Prof. Hongliang Xin. 3rd place winner – Quili Liu of the University of South Carolina with the presentation "*Rational Synthesis and*

*Evaluation of Pd Bimetallic Catalysts for Furfural Rearrangement to Cyclopentane in Aqueous Phase*". Quili is advised by Prof. John R. Regalbuto. Poster Awards: 1st place winner – Debtanu Maiti of the University of South Florida with the poster "*Intrinsic Material Property Driven Prediction of CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion over Perovskite Oxides*". Debtanu is advised by Profs. John N. Kuhn and Venkat R. Bhethanabotla. 2nd place winner – Siwen Wang of Virginia Tech with the poster "*Engineering Metal/SnO<sub>x</sub> Interfaces for Electrochem-*

*ical CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction*". Siwen is advised by Prof. Hongliang Xin. 3rd place winner – Calvin Thomas of the University of South Carolina with the poster "*The Effects of Long Term Sulfur Exposure on Three Way Catalytic Performance in Passive Selective Catalytic Reduction Systems*". Calvin is advised by Prof. Jochen Lauterbach and R&D Staff Member Todd J. Toops.

In addition, the SECS presented a plaque to Eastman Chemical for their 15 years of sponsorship of the SECS Symposium. Zhufang Liu accepted the award. He is pictured below along with the SECS officers.

Attendance at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual SECS Symposium was a record high of 76 scientists and engineers, with attendees from twelve Universities, Oak Ridge National Lab, and four commercial labs and suppliers.

The SECS gratefully acknowledges generous support of the Symposium from Eastman Chemical Company, Micromeritics, Equilibar, Altamira Instruments, Quantachrome, and the NACS.



## Southwest Catalysis Society

**2016 Fall Seminar.** The Southwest Catalysis Society Fall Seminar was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the University of Houston. Our guest speaker for this event was Prof. Randall Snurr, the John G. Searle Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Northwestern University. His talk entitled “Combined Modeling and Experimental Studies of Oxidation Catalysis in MOFs and Zeolites” was attended by approximately 50 researchers from local industries and universities.

**2017 Spring Symposium.** The Southwest Catalysis Society Spring Symposium (SWCS) will be held on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> at the University of Houston campus. This event will include invited talks from internationally recognized leaders in the field of catalysis and reaction engineering. There will also be a poster session highlighting the research of students and postdocs from participating universities. The 2017 SWCS Excellence in Applied Catalysis Award will be presented to Dr. Kathy Keville, Manager of Catalyst Development & Manufacturing at Ex-

onMobil Chemical Company. The following is a list of speakers for this event:

- Prof. Alexis Bell (University of California at Berkeley)
- Prof. Joachim Sauer (Humboldt University)
- Dr. Ahmad Moini (BASF, winner of the 2016 F.G. Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis)
- Prof. Aditya Bhan (University of Minnesota, winner of the 2016 Ipatieff Prize)
- Dr. Jeffrey Bricker (Honeywell UOP, winner of the 2017 Eugene J. Houdry Award)
- Prof. Michael Wong (Rice University, winner of the 2015 SWCS Award)
- Prof. Giannis Mpourmpakis (University of Pittsburgh)

We encourage all NACS members and affiliates to attend this event. For details of the program and site location, please contact Jeff Rimer ([jrimer@central.uh.edu](mailto:jrimer@central.uh.edu)).

## Tri-State Catalysis Society

The 2017 Spring Symposium will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Faculty Club on the University of Cincinnati campus. We encourage all NACS members and affiliates to participate. The event will include five invited keynote presentations from leaders in industry and academia in the field of catalysis, a lunch lecture by Burt Davis on the history of Fischer-Tropsch catalysis and general presentations from Clariant, University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University and US-Air Force Research Laboratory. In place of a poster session the society will feature several student presentations to highlight their research projects. The one hour student session will conclude with a discussion and three outstanding student presentations will be recognized with awards.

For more information contact: [graham@topasol.com](mailto:graham@topasol.com). The Tri State Catalysis Society will also hold elections of future officers of the society.

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## Club Directory

### Canada Catalysis Division - CCD

<http://catalysisdivision.ca/>

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Open position

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<http://nacatsoc.org/clubs/new-england/>

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<http://orcs.org/>

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