

ACS – Northeast Wisconsin Section

American Chemical Society

April 2010

The “Transition State”

I'm sure you've heard them all: “nothing stays the same”, “the only constant is change”, “embrace change”, “change is good!”, “be a change agent!”. It seems inevitable that all of life's events are bracketed and intermingled with transitions of some form or other. Nothing profound, you say? I agree, but as I reflect during planning for our spring activities, and as I watch our daughter grow so quickly, I'm especially reminded of life's transitions. This month we have a grand opportunity to hear Dr. Masha Petrova share her perspective on bundling personal, maternal and professional transitions all into one, and how to survive in the process!

Spring is also a time when we honor great chemistry in the area, with the May NE WI Section Awards Banquet. High school students transitioning into college students. Fifty year ACS members transitioning (hopefully) into retirement. Students and teachers transitioning out of the semester. And yes, everyone transitioning deeper into their years.

I'm certain Dr. Petrova will tell you it's not easy. But I suggest that one of the truly rewarding experiences in life is sitting back and watching all these transitions occurring simultaneously. Come see for yourself at the April section meeting and the May Honors Banquet.



Corey Cunningham – Chair

◆ April Section Meeting ◆

Dr. Masha V. Petrova

MVP Modeling Solutions, LLC

“A Wife, a Mother, and a Ph.D.”



April 21st at 6:30 pm
Lawrence University
Science Hall Room 102

[Map](#)

(See below for details)



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Dr. Masha V. Petrova – A Wife, a Mother, and a Ph.D.”

Once the female graduate student graduates and dawns on some fancy new initials behind her name, she will come face to face with many questions upon entering the workforce, that do not even come to minds of her male counterparts. - How do I tell my boss that I need to take a 15 minute break every few hours because I am breast feeding and need to pump food for my three month old? - We are getting ready to sign the mortgage papers and the loan officer asks who is the head of the household, do I actually say I am because I am making twice as much as my husband? - All of my male coworkers are staying in the lab until eight o'clock at night, dedicated to pushing out the next paper, but I just want to go home my kids! Does that make me worthless as a researcher? I started my own company primarily because I wanted to design my career around my family, and not vice - versa. During this talk I share my experiences as a working mom, an engineer and a CEO of my own company and give the audience some practical tips on dealing with life while keeping your sanity.

UW System Women & Science Program

Dr. Jennifer Mihalick, Associate Professor of Chemistry at UW-Oshkosh, is the director of the UW System Women & Science Program. The program seeks to attract and retain more women and minority students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Please check out the [website](#) for more details.

May NE WI Section Meeting – Awards Banquet at UW-Fox Valley

Following tradition, UW Fox Valley will once again graciously host the ACS NE WI Honors Banquet on Thursday, May 6th, beginning at 5:30. This meeting features a relaxed dinner event followed by a host of awards for our local students, and others. It is always a fine event, with a wonderful mix of students, teachers and industrial scientists. Please watch for a separate invitation for this meeting, and mark your calendars.

If you have someone in mind who deserves recognition, please let us know!

US National Chemistry Olympiad

The US National Chemistry Olympiad National Exam will be given on Sunday, April 26 at Appleton East High School. Students throughout northeast Wisconsin will be taking the local exam during March and the top 10 scorers will be invited to take the national exam.

Eight study sessions were held on Thursday nights in January and February for students to prepare for the local exam. An average of 7 students attended each study session where the topics included descriptive and organic chemistry, atomic structure, states of matter, stoichiometry, bonding, kinetics, equilibrium, and electrochemistry. 1st year and 2nd year chemistry students attended the study sessions and participated in hands-on demos, discussions, and practice exams.

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ON THE WEB

Paper Discovery Center in Appleton

Paper chemistry has a strong origin and relevance to our region. The [Paper Discovery Center](#) in Appleton is a local gem that is a must see! They offer many opportunities to learn and experience one of the oldest chemistry applications known to man!

Accelrys Materials Studio for Modeling

Modeling chemical systems is quite prevalent in academia and industry. Accelrys, producer of modeling software, has [free on-demand webinars](#) online for your review. This is not a promotion of their software, but a great opportunity to see the capabilities of this type of commercial software.

Aldrich “Material Matters” Online

Another fine chemistry resource, free on the internet – catch issues of Aldrich’s [“Material Matters”](#), a publication devoted to material science and nanotechnology, with downloadable pdf’s.

ChemSpider Chemistry Resource on the Web

Check out [ChemSpider](#), a free online resource for finding chemical information.

Manage Your Online Research with Connotea

Endnote® and other reference management software are excellent for building reference libraries. Wish you could do the same for internet research? Well you can, for free! [Connotea](#) is a website that lets you flag your web hits and file them away into your own personal reference library. Check it out.

Or with Mendeley

[Mendeley Desktop](#) organizes research papers, patents, websites, and documents in progress. It can extract information from documents, generate bibliographies for Word™ and OpenOffice, and is available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux. It also has some great collaborative options as well.

Northeast Wisconsin Section Newsletter

Do you have items to share? Put it in the newsletter! Send an [email](#) and we’ll be glad to get it in print!

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