

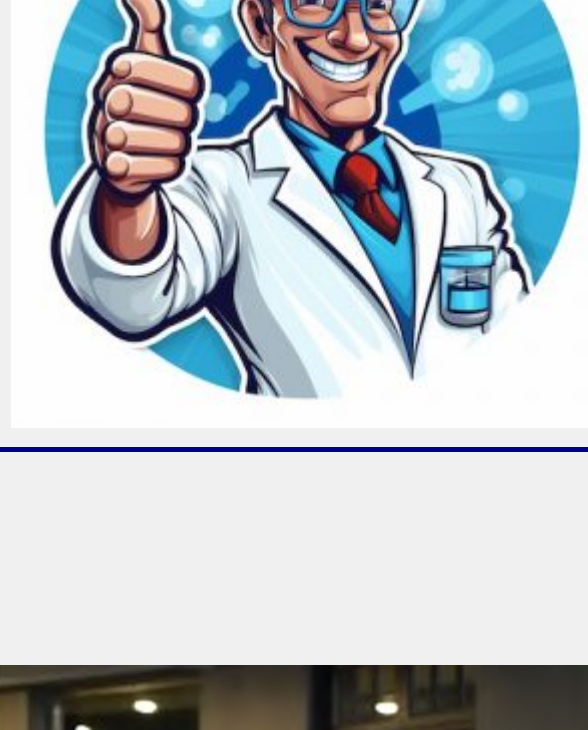
The Chemical Bonds Needs You!

first published 5 January 2024

If you are someone who eagerly awaits the new issue of the Chemical Bond each month, you have probably noticed that our publication schedule has not been regular. If you keep an extra sharp eye on our web site, you may also notice that we no longer have an editor, but rather have an Interim Editor. If editing content, seeking out interesting stories about our chapter, and learning (or brushing up on) WordPress is something that appeals to you or someone you know, please reach out to editor@stlacs.org

Reaching out doesn't commit you. Let us answer any questions you might have and reassure you: this is a great way to get actively involved with the Section. Training will be available, and you will have back-up.

Your editing team,
Jeramia Ory, Interim Editor
Eric Ressler, Associate Editor



St Louis Award 2023: the whole story

first published 30 November 2023

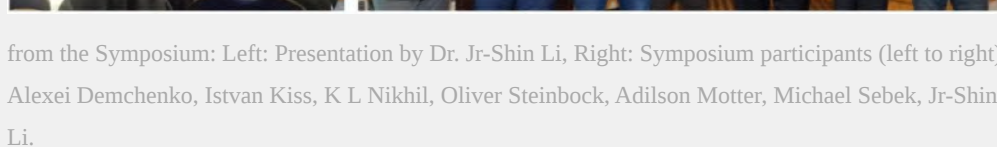
Dateline St Louis, October 27, 2023 — A symposium and banquet were held in honor of Dr Istvan Z Kiss, Professor of Chemistry at Saint Louis University and winner of the 53rd St Louis Section ACS Award.

Dr Kiss was selected by a jury composed of St Louis Section Directors for his outstanding contributions to the promotion of chemistry and potential to further the advancement of the chemical profession.

The symposium on "Modeling and Controlling Complex Self-Organized Structures" was organized by Dr Kiss and Dr Alexei Demchenko, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and was held in the awe-inspiring Pere Marquette Gallery, Duborg Hall, with its stunning stained glass windows. The attendees were welcomed by Dr Tabbetha Bohac, Chair of the Section. After her introduction, five colleagues selected by Dr Kiss from hither (Washington University) and yon (Northeastern and Florida State Universities) presented their talks. The closing act was Dr Kiss' presentation on "Network Electrochemistry" summarizing his work from battery technology to microfluidics to circadian rhythms in biology.



Istvan Kiss receives St Louis Award from Section Chair Tabbetha Bohac

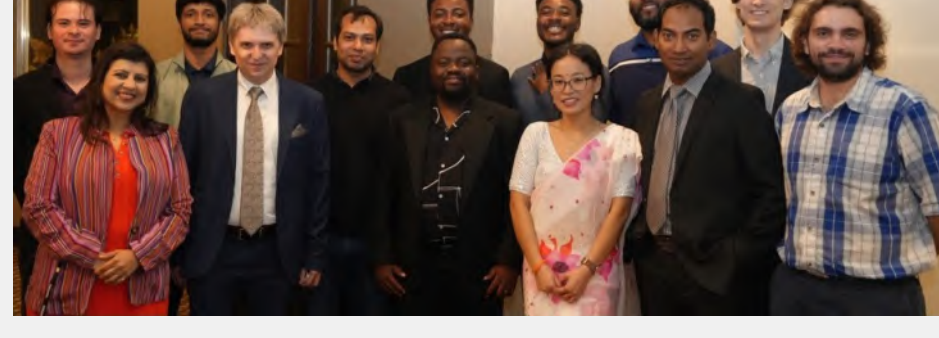


from the Symposium: Left: Presentation by Dr. Jr-Shin Li, Right: Symposium participants (left to right) Alexei Demchenko, Istvan Kiss, K.L. Nikhil, Oliver Steinbock, Adilson Motter, Michael Sebek, Jr-Shin Li.

The Glen Echo Country Club was the site of the Award Banquet, immediately following the symposium and attended by almost fifty guests. The Banquet started with beverages and hors d'oeuvres (most popular food: candied bacon). Tabbetha Bohac figuratively rang the dinner bell, then introduced Dr Kiss and his wife Sneh, and thanked him and the other speakers for putting on a great symposium. She recognized other officers of the local section and former St Louis Award winners in attendance.

Everyone was then treated to a great dinner of salad, glazed salmon and Japanese cut striploin. While people were getting ready to enjoy their tiramisu desserts, Dr Demchenko introduced Dr Kiss once more, and Dr Bohac presented him with the Award plaque and honorarium.

Dr Kiss then regaled the attendees with his award lecture (intended to appeal to a more general audience), entitled "Adventures Through Sync and Chaos" detailing his path from a small town in Hungary experimenting with explosives, arriving at Saint Louis University performing innovative research on network theory of chemical and biological reactions. He cited the contributions of his students and collaborators to developments on oscillatory reactions with electrode arrays and lab-on-a-chip devices.



Group photo: front row: Sneh Kiss, Istvan Kiss, John A. Tetteh, Anita Limbu, Mahesh Imacluwaga-Gamage, Fadi Alhalabi, back row: Jorge Ocampo, Sagnik Chakraborty, Devanand, Lawrence Bordloh, Michael Emmanuel, Michael Hankins, Michael Sebek.

After his talk, his research group presented him with a framed congratulatory citation. Tabbetha then brought the evening to a close, though many stayed to reminisce long after.

—submitted by J-S Taylor, St Louis Award coordinator

Continuity Dinner crosses o'er

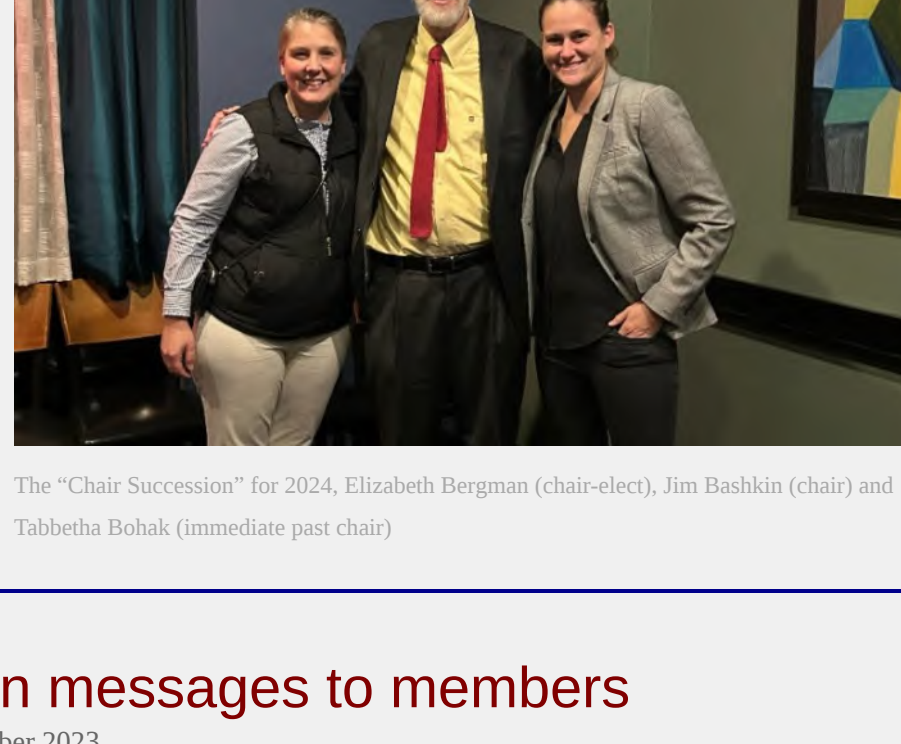
first published 20 December 2023

For the first time in anyone's memory (OK, in mine), the Continuity Dinner — indeed, an STLACS board meeting — was held on the Illinois side of the river. The venue was Bella Milano in Edwardsville, and here is Tabbetha's brief but stirring report. Take it away, Tabbetha!

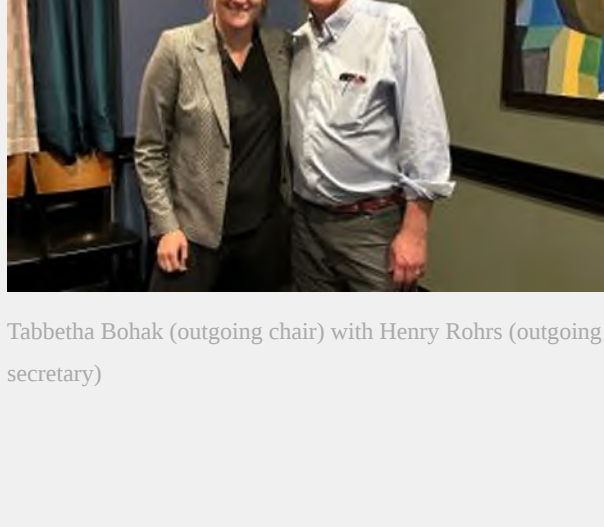
We had a wonderful dinner and board meeting to end 2023. We made the trek to the Illinois side of our Section and had a lovely evening at Bella Milano in Edwardsville. Some highlights:

- The announcement of the Distinguished Service Award winner: Henry Rohrs. The award is officially conferred at Awards Night in March. We thanked Henry for his service as our section's secretary since 2017. His tenure makes him the second longest serving secretary in our Section's history. A very impressive run. Thank you, Henry!
- Delivery of the Henry Godt Memorial Lecture by in-coming chair Jim Bashkin. Jim dazzled the group as he recapped our section's successes throughout the year.
- Suzy Hartmann was honored and thanked for her hard work and effort on ensuring a successful Midwest/Great Lakes Joint Regional meeting this fall.
- The chair was officially passed as outgoing chair Tabbetha Bohac handed the reins to incoming chair Jim Bashkin. We are all looking forward to Jim's tenure this year. I'm sure he has plenty of exciting plans for us! Stay tuned.
- Following in Jim's footsteps, Elizabeth Bergman stepped in as chair-elect for 2024.

We had an impressive turnout with many of our board members, several recurring faces, and a few new ones, as students from SIUE joined us, which was quite welcome. One of our goals for having the dinner in Edwardsville was to facilitate engagement by students/members on the Illinois side, so ... success!



The "Chair Succession" for 2024, Elizabeth Bergman (chair-elect), Jim Bashkin (chair) and Tabbetha Bohac (immediate past chair)



Tabbetha Bohac (outgoing chair) with Henry Rohrs (outgoing secretary)

Chairs out/in messages to members

first published 30 December 2023

At the changing of the year, it's also time for the changing of the guard. Traditionally, our outgoing and incoming Section Chairs provide their retrospective and prospective views (respectively and respectfully).

First, **Tabbetha Bohac**, outgoing Chair:

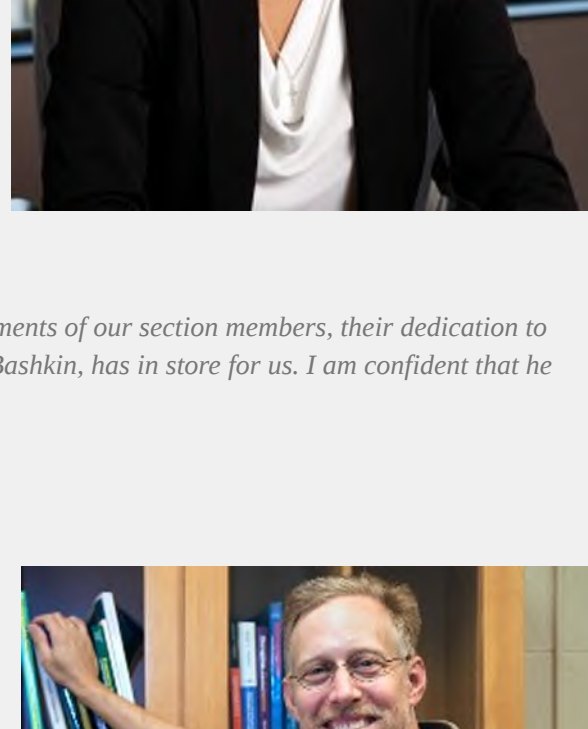
What a whirlwind of a year it was! It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the St Louis Section ACS for 2023. The year was packed with wonderful and successful events and programming — Cocktails and Coffee with Chemists networking events, St Louis and Midwest award symposia/banquets, the Section Award banquet, Chemistry Merit badge clinics, outreach events, Careers Day event, discussion groups, and more.

Of note, we hosted the Midwest/Great Lakes Joint Regional meeting this year. We had 929 attendees, 44 booth at the Expo, 26 special symposia, 18 oral technical session, 17 poster sessions and over 600 abstracts submitted. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive! The venue and expo were well received, and the quality of the talks was outstanding — I heard excitement about the science and the expo booths from many people that I talked to. We couldn't have pulled this off without the hard work and dedication of all our section members, but especially Suzy, Leah, Jeff, Lisa and Jeramia.

None of the successes this year would have been possible with the support of an amazing Steering Committee, Board of Directors, volunteers and members. I thank everyone for showing their support with their attendance at our events, bringing in new members, and their ideas for improving our outreach.

I deeply value my interactions with the members of ACS and remain continually inspired by the accomplishments of our section members, their dedication to our mission, and their support for fellow members. I look forward to the exciting events our new chair, Jim Bashkin, has in store for us. I am confident that he will lead us running through 2024 and serenade us with his successes at this time next year.

Cheers,
Tabbetha



And now, **Jim Bashkin**, incoming Chair:

Welcome to the New Year, everyone. It is an honor to serve as Local Section Chair for 2024, and I arrive on the heels of a successful 2023 campaign for our organization. Thanks to all those who made that success possible. However, it must be acknowledged that recent job losses in the region significantly impacted our chemists and chemistry. The new Chair-elect, Elizabeth Bergman, and I hope to help with those problems. Having gone through an involuntary separation, I know what this is like and how personal it can feel, no matter how much we are told to feel otherwise.

The continued networking events, Coffee and Cocktails with Chemists, run by Rhonda Woerndle and Brian Kamusinga, are advertised on Meetup and don't require ACS membership. They offer networking opportunities for chemists of all types and rove around the region to serve all.

The ACS offers many job search and skills training tools. Elizabeth will take point in marshaling our resources, including our many experienced members and officers, to highlight the opportunities.

After the excitement and stress of the Regional Meeting last fall, we can regroup and refocus on our strategic plan, which was designed as a grassroots effort to improve the Section for its members.

I will keep this short because, perhaps like some of you, I am still recovering from a respiratory illness and am not up to full strength yet. However, I look forward to seeing you at events all over the region, sharing your passion for chemistry and your joy in what you do, and offering help when I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions or comments.

Sincerely,
Jim Bashkin



How to keep that old NMR up

first published 31 January 2024

Chemjobber **highlighted** Celia Arnaud's **item** in the December 3rd issue of C&E News. Which laments that, when older high-resolution NMRs are no longer supported by their manufacturers, instrument labs are left with few good options: DIY maintenance or high capital expenses for replacement.

Our own **Sophia Hayes**, who actively uses the High-Resolution NMR Facility in her research at Washington University in St. Louis, is **extensively** quoted in the article. She credits the director of the facility, **Mannilan Singh**, for keeping older machines running by pirating stockpiled instruments for spare parts. She further speculates that in the near future, benchtop NMRs — which offer lower resolution, but require no helium for cooling the magnet — may become the workhorses for routine NMR analyses.

Those were-the-days time: a Varian A-60 was the workhorse NMR when I was a grad student in the [mumbleblub] '70s. If you wanted to install it on a Varian desk-top, I suppose you could have, but you'd need a mighty tall stool to operate it."



Meeting & Seminars

Board of Directors

St Louis Section—ACS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month. We hope to move back to in-person meetings in 2023, please check the meeting announcements.

Date: February 8th

Join internet meeting at 6:00 pm for social/chit-chat
Business meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Future meetings: March 14th, April 11th

Maryville University

Seminars are approximately once a month on Thursdays, 4-5 pm. Details are available on the university's [seminar page](#). All seminars are free and open to the public. Contact [Jason Telford](#) for more information.

Saint Louis University

Seminars are generally on Fridays at 12 noon in Carlo Auditorium, Tegeler Hall, unless noted otherwise. Refreshments follow. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the department's [home page](#) and follow the link to the Seminar Schedule.

University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy in St. Louis

The center is [Professional Clinical](#) or contact [Jodi Maslin](#).

University of Missouri—St Louis

Mondays at 4 pm in 451 Benton Hall, unless otherwise specified, or refreshments 15 minutes prior to seminar time. For timely information on visiting seminar speakers, contact the Chemistry Department, 314.516.5311, or visit the [seminar schedule](#). The department has additional seminar series which are also accessible from this page.

Washington University

Seminars are in McMillen 311 at 4 pm unless otherwise noted. For information, consult the departmental [events page](#). Related seminars, including endowed seminar series and the WU med school biochemistry series, are linked here as well.

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TA Instruments DSC Q2000 for Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- **Surface Area and Pore Size Analysis**
Coulter SA3100 Surface Area and Pore Size Analyzer
- **Elemental Analysis**
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EDS, Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy using 30mm² detector in Apreo 2 SEM
- **Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry**
ThermoFisher Scientific TSQ Altis Triple Quad Mass Spectrometer equipped with Vanquish binary pump and Triplus autosampler

About the Chemical Bond

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