

# THE VORTEX

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
VOLUME LXXIX NUMBER 5

CALIFORNIA SECTION  
MAY 2017



2017 PETERSEN AWARD RECIPIENT,  
MARK FRISHBERG

SECTION AWARDS MEETING	PAGE 2
CHAIR'S MESSAGE	PAGE 3
SAVE THE DATE JUNE MEETING	PAGE 3
PETERSEN AWARD	PAGE 4
YCC MEETING REPORT	PAGE 5
REACT! ORGANIC CHEM GAME BY UC BERKELEY STUDENTS	PAGE 5
CELEBRATING CONCRETE (REVISITED) (BILL MOTZER)	PAGE 6
ACS NATIONAL COUNCILORS MEETING REPORT	PAGE 7
BUSINESS DIRECTORY	PAGE 11
INDEX OF ADVERTISERS	PAGE 11

## *Second Annual Networking for Young Chemical*

From entrepreneurship to finding an internship or permanent position at a company, relationships are among the most valuable assets a professional can have in the early stages of a career. Facilitating a connection between young chemists with those who are already established in their careers is rewarding for both parties. The YCC and ACS at Berkeley are dedicated to building these relationships. This Spring, UC Berkeley students and professionals from around the Bay met at the second annual networking event, exposing aspiring chemistry-related undergraduates to the possibilities available after graduation. With more than 20 professionals representing Chevron, Clorox, and many other firms, the event attracted more than 70 people. Attendees were asked to start off in one-on-one student-professional pairs for introductions, creating an environment in which all guests were able to break the ice and become more comfortable with each other. Rotations were urged every three

minutes for a total of ten introductions before a period of open mixing and conversation, giving students the opportunity to seek out those professionals they felt the strongest connection with. Both students and professionals found the event to be a rewarding experience, creating friendships amongst chemists and engineers.

The California section of YCC supported the Berkeley student chapters of ACS and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in hosting this event, playing a key role in connecting the ACS professional network to students at UC Berkeley, generating the continued success of this event. With increasing ACS presence and involvement in campus events through the newly formed student chapter, Berkeley students and local young professionals will continue to benefit from this collaboration in the coming months.

Zoe Adams, YCC Undergraduate  
Events Coordinator, ACS at Berkeley  
Vice President, Navid Jawad, ACS at  
Berkeley President

## *UC Berkeley students launch new boardgame product for learning organic chemistry*

Organic chemistry is a leading reason students avoid STEM careers – from medicine to bioengineering to chemistry. Nationally, an estimated 30,000 would-be doctors do not get accepted to medical school, many because of organic chemistry. In fact, at UCB, organic chemistry has twice the fail rate compared to other courses.

In their organic chemistry classes, UCB undergraduates Prerak Juthani and Billal Ahmed saw hundreds of overwhelmed and stressed students. As UCB organic chemistry tutors, they helped many puzzled students by making problem solving a game. That is why they created React! React! is a revolutionary multiplayer game that can help anyone learn college-level organic chemistry.

Developed by 13 UCB Chemistry and Biology students, React! makes learning organic chemistry fun by turning it into a challenging, yet rewarding puzzle, instead of having to memorize an overwhelming amount of facts. Out of 320 international submissions, business leaders chose React! as one-of-six finalists for the Big Ideas startup competition.

React! has hundreds of student volunteers – from UCB to CSU Chico to UC Davis – playtesting the React! board game and the response is overwhelming. “Fun game!” says the Director of Undergraduate Chemistry at UCB, Dr. Anne Baranger. “Super engaging,” says UCB Chemistry professor, Dr. Pete Marsden. This May 1, React! will launch a Kickstarter campaign to raise money to make the game an app and board game that can be used by millions of students each year. “Our game is the rocket,” says React! Founder, Prerak Juthani, “We need your fuel. Help us launch!”

