

# Report from Ithaca: NERM 2015

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Williams Hall at Ithaca College, venue of the technical sessions at NERM 2015.

The Cornell Local Section hosted the ACS Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM 2015; Finger Lakes Region Go Green!) on June 10-13 at Ithaca College. With 665 registrants, including 125 undergraduates and 250 graduate students, making more than 400 presentations with 172 posters, the meeting was a very successful event. The full program is available online at:

<[http://nerm2015.sites.acs.orgNERM\\_2015\\_Program\\_Book.pdf](http://nerm2015.sites.acs.orgNERM_2015_Program_Book.pdf)>.

The General and Program Chairs of NERM 2015 were Akiko Fillinger and Anna Larsen, respectively, of Ithaca College, which is located on a hill southeast of the city. and provides lovely vistas of Lake Cayuga and the surrounding countryside. All the technical sessions and the exposition were in Williams Hall, an academic building adjacent to the Campus Center.

Tom Barton, ACS Immediate Past President, was a sponsor of the High School Chemistry Teacher Program on Saturday, and provided welcoming remarks before the series of workshops, discussions, and chemical demonstrations. The High School Program Chair was Emily Garcia Segal of Bridgewater State University.

The meeting started on Wednesday afternoon with a plenary lecture by Esther Takeuchi of SUNY Stony Brook on “Battery Science: At the Confluence of Electrochemistry and Materials Science,” which was followed by the opening night social mixer, graduate school fair, and poster sessions, including those for undergraduate research. The next two days were filled with a total of 42 symposia, technical sessions, and workshops.

Six members of the ACS Board of Directors (Tom Gilbert, District I; George Bodner, District II; at-Large: Valerie Kuck, Ingrid Montes, Dorothy Phillips, Kathleen Schulz) were present and hosted an “Ice Cream Social with ACS Governance” on the Academic Quad, at which questions from attendees were answered and membership issues were addressed.

At the Awards Banquet on Friday night, Conrad Stanitski (Franklin and Marshall College and the University of Central Arkansas), recipient of the 2013 Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, spoke about his evolution as a teacher of chemistry and the challenges that current and future instructors will face. The E. Ann Nalley Northeast Region Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS was presented to Wayne E. Jones, Jr. (SUNY Binghamton), Treasurer of the Northeast Region of the ACS, Inc., Councilor from the Binghamton Local Section, and General Chair of NERM 2006 and the upcoming NERM 2016.

NESACS was recognized at the Awards Banquet with two honors. Suzy S. Drurey, a teacher of chemistry at Newton South High School and formerly at the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Boston, was the recipient of the ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching. The award consisted of a plaque and a check from CHED of \$1,000. NESACS and the German Chemical Society (GDCh) shared the Marinda Wu Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award, which included plaques, medals, and checks, for their German Exchange Program, which will hold its 15th annual event at the upcoming ACS national meeting in Boston.

NERM 2016 will be held at the Binghamton University Downtown Center in Binghamton, NY, on Wednesday-Saturday, October 5-8; the meeting website is: <http://nerm2016.sites.acs.org/>.

**Photos from NERM 2015:**

[http://www.nesacs.org/pub\\_photos/2015/june2015nerm/jun2015nerm\\_meeting.html](http://www.nesacs.org/pub_photos/2015/june2015nerm/jun2015nerm_meeting.html)