



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2, 2025

Social Meeting
Anaheim Ducks Hockey
Game

March 12, 2025

Dinner Meeting
Past Presidents' Night
DoubleTree by Hilton
Buena Park, CA

April 9, 2025

Dinner Meeting
Bosses' Night
DoubleTree by Hilton
Buena Park, CA

JANUARY DINNER MEETING SPONSOR



JANUARY BULLETIN

Plan for the Future

January 8, 2025

SPECIALTY CLAYS MINERALS FOR PAINTS AND COATINGS

SPEAKER: MARTHA WITTEK
Account Executive
TOLSA

Speaker Bio:



Martha Wittek is an experienced chemist with a specialization in architectural paints. She spent 18 years at Rohm and Haas, where she played a key role in developing acrylic polymers and coatings formulas at the Spring House Research site and the Charlotte Tech Center. Martha has also held roles in marketing and sales at Brenntag Specialties, focusing on the coatings industry. Currently, she serves as an Account Executive at TOLSA, managing accounts across the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. Her diverse career has given her a deep understanding of both the technical and commercial aspects of the coatings sector.

MEETING DETAILS:

LOCATION: DoubleTree by Hilton Buena Park Hotel, 7000 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620

TIME: Social Hour 5:30 pm
Speaker 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

PRICE: \$ 25.00 retired members w/reservation by 12:00 p.m. Friday, January 3
\$ 35.00 members w/ reservation by 12:00 p.m. Friday, January 3
\$ 45.00 non-members w/reservation or reservation after 12:00 p.m. Friday, January 3

RSVP: [Click here](#) to pay online or email lasct@earthlink.net

MONTHLY DRAWINGS:

Door Prize	Gift Card
Attendance	\$640.00

December Meeting Winners:

Door Prize	Kevin Egan, <i>Behr Paint</i>
Best Question	George Ross, <i>TCR Industries</i>
Attendance	\$ 620.00 Gary DeBoer, <i>Westcoat Specialty Coating (Not Present)</i>

PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Local Membership

Tristan Strom, *Vista Paint*

Student Membership

Shawn David Larson, *Cal Poly SLO*
Sierra C. Sanchez, *Cal Poly SLO*

CAL POLY SLO POLYMERS & COATINGS WINTER SHORT COURSE

The Western Coatings Technology Center at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in cooperation with Cal Poly Conference & Event Planning Department, will offer the annual Winter Polymers and Coatings Short Course during the week of Monday, February 17th at 8 a.m. through Friday, February 21st at noon. **Early Bird Pricing ends on Friday, January 10, 2025.**

Cal Poly's summer short course on polymers and coatings brings together academic and industrial experts in the field. The one-week course covers many aspects of coating technology with emphasis on liquid coatings, both waterborne and solvent-based.

Participants benefit from discussions of a wide range of topics by industry and academic experts, including VOC and air quality aspects of coatings agencies. Participants are expected to have had some exposure to the coatings field, along with working knowledge in chemistry and other sciences. Enclosed please find the Winter Course Brochure.

FEBRUARY EVENT

Join us on Sunday, February 2 at 1:00 pm, as we watch the Anaheim Ducks take on the Montreal Canadiens at the Honda Center. We will not have any pre-game event but will have group seating. Ticket price is \$55.00, which includes a \$20.00 food/beverage concession credit. Tickets are limited, so get your tickets early! With construction happening at the Honda Center, parking can be difficult. Information regarding parking is available at <https://www.hondacenter.com/plan-your-visit/parking/>. Reservation form enclosed.

2025-2026 LASCT SCHOLARSHIPS

Students interested in applying for an LASCT Scholarship for 2025/2026 are encouraged to submit an online application at <https://applyforgrants.calfund.org/SpectrumWebPortal/Accounts/Logon/Profile/Accounts>. The online application will open after January 20, 2025. Enclosed is the outline of the requirements. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 31, 2025.

For application guide and questions, please contact Ida Lin, Scholarship Committee Chair, at PPG Industries by email at idadajlin@yahoo.com.

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**WESTERN COATINGS SYMPOSIUM 2025
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The 37th Biennial Western Coatings Symposium and Show will be held October 19-22, 2025 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas. Pricing for sponsorships, tabletops and attendee registration is available on the website at www.westerncoatings.org.

Sponsorships are available for purchase!

GOOD FELLOWSHIP NEWS

WITH SYMPATHY

♦ Joe Cummings, a long time member of the LASCT, passed away in November, of pancreatic cancer. Our deepest sympathy to Joe's family and loved ones.

To report any new "happenings", please contact the Derek Marin, Good Fellowship Chair at dmarin@vistapaint.com or the LASCT Office at (714) 998-1891, or by email at lasct@earthlink.net.

EMPLOYMENT

Companies in the coatings industry are hiring! Employment opportunities are posted on the LASCT website at lasct.org and are included in the bulletin. Postings are updated regularly.

LASCT IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search for Los Angeles Society of Coatings Technology page on Facebook. Check it out to view upcoming social events and historical photos. If you'd like to add something to the page, feel free to contact your Board of Directors.

LASCT IS ON LinkedIn!

Los Angeles Society of Coatings Technology now has a page on LinkedIn. Check it out to view upcoming events and information regarding the coatings industry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please mark your calendars for the March Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. As always, regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Wally Kesler
2024-2025 LASCT Secretary



Visit www.lasct.org for more information regarding upcoming meetings, events and job postings.



LASCT February Special Event

February 2, 2025

Anaheim Ducks vs. Montreal Canadiens Hockey Game



Honda Center
2695 E. Katella Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806



1:00 pm start time

Join us as we watch the Anaheim Ducks take on the Montreal Canadiens at the Honda Center. We will not have any pre-game event but will have group seating. Ticket price is \$55.00, which includes a \$20.00 food/beverage concession credit. Tickets are limited, so get your tickets early!

With construction happening at the Honda Center, parking can be difficult. Information regarding parking and alternative transportation is available at <https://www.hondacenter.com/plan-your-visit/parking/>.

Price: \$ 55.00 per ticket

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

No. of tickets _____ at \$ 55.00 = \$ _____
Total Amount Due \$ _____

Pay online at www.lasct.org or
mail this form with check to LASCT, P.O. Box 3633, Orange, CA 92857

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

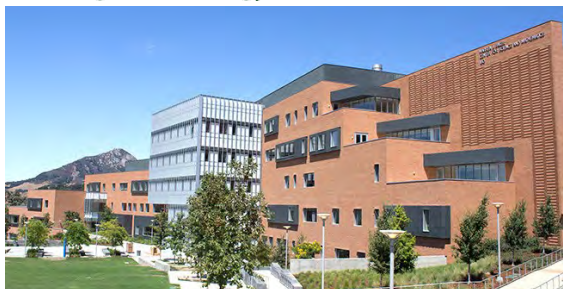
The Los Angeles Society for Coatings Technology has for several years awarded scholarships to encourage the academic training of people with the expressed hope that the recipients seriously consider working in the Southern California Coatings Industry.

1. Scholarship candidates residing within the boundaries of the LASCT will be given preference over those living outside stated boundaries, as defined in Section 25 of the LASCT Constitution and ByLaws.
2. The applicant must be planning to pursue a course of study leading to an AA, BA, BS, MS, or PhD in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Students majoring in some aspect of coatings technology will have preference over those majoring in STEM. Depending on available funding, two (2) scholarships for non-STEM majors will be awarded.
3. Merit evaluation will be based upon the candidate's copy of official transcript.
4. Applicants meeting the above qualifications are eligible for consideration. Scholarships will be awarded in the order of priority listed below:
 - a. Any person currently employed in the coatings industry and who is a member.
 - b. College or graduate student who has maintained continuous LASCT membership for at least 365 days prior to application deadline.
 - c. Children of current active, associate and retired members of the LASCT. Members that attend at least two (2) LASCT meetings or events 365 days prior to application deadline are prioritized.
 - d. Other relatives of current, active and retired members of the LASCT. Members that attend at least two (2) LASCT meetings or events 365 days prior to application deadline are prioritized.
5. Scholarships will be awarded on a one-year basis.
6. Renewal of scholarships will be contingent upon continued interest in pursuing a degree and maintaining a 3.0 grade point average (A=4.0), and continued availability of LASCT scholarship funds.
7. Evaluation of applications for scholarships and scholarship renewals will be made by the LASCT Scholarship Committee. Scholarship Committee recommendations must be approved by the LASCT Board of Directors. All decisions of the Board of Directors of the LASCT in any matter connected with the scholarship competition are final.
8. Scholarship applications for the 2025-2026 academic year must be received **online** by the Scholarship Committee prior to March 31, 2025. Applications are to include the required copy of an official full transcript and essay regarding "Why I chose my specific major(s) for college." Comments on how you may want to influence the coatings industry are welcome, along with any other pertinent information. All awards will be announced at the LASCT meeting in October or November. Please submit your completed Scholarship Application package **online** at:
<https://applyforgrants.calfund.org/SpectrumWebPortal/Accounts/Logon/Profile/Accounts>

For application guideline and questions, please contact:

Ida Lin
PPG Industries
Phone: (678) 373-6450
idadajlin@yahoo.com

Please cc: lasct@earthlink.net



Polymers and Coatings Program at Cal Poly

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, is one of the 23 campuses of the California State University system. Cal Poly enrolls over 20,000 students and is nationally recognized for the excellence of its programs in architecture, agriculture, engineering, and the sciences. The Polymers and Coatings program, an integral part of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department of the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics, offers both an Undergraduate Concentration and a Masters degree in Polymers and Coatings Science.

Short Course Overview

Cal Poly's winter short course on polymers and coatings brings together academic and industrial experts in the field. The one-week course covers many aspects of coating technology with emphasis on liquid coatings, both waterborne and solvent-based. Participants benefit from discussions of VOC and air quality aspects of coatings by experts in both industry and government regulatory agencies. Participants are expected to have had some exposure to the coatings field along with working knowledge in chemistry and other sciences. The course will convene at 8:00 AM on Monday and end at 12:00 noon on Friday.

Travel and Accommodations

San Luis Obispo is in California's Central Coast region, 200 miles north of Los Angeles and 230 miles south of San Francisco. Participants who wish to drive from the Los Angeles or San Francisco areas may take Route 101. All major airlines offer services to San Luis Obispo Airport with connecting flights from Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Seattle. The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce website (<https://visitslo.com/>) contains information for local hotels. Lodging is not included in the program fee.

Registration and Fees

Course registration fee is \$1900 if received on or before January 10, 2025 and \$2000 if received on or after January 10, 2025. Participants must register on-line. Course registration fee covers hard and soft copies of handouts, refreshments, and luncheons for Monday through Thursday.

For more information, contact **Dr. Ray Fernando** at rhfernan@calpoly.edu or visit www.wctc.calpoly.edu

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, February 17

- Coating Industry & Formulation Overview
- Resin Technologies (Overview, Solvent, 2K)
- Pigments and Fillers
- Resin Technologies (Waterborne, Opaque Polymers)

Tuesday, February 18

- Additives for coatings
- Characterization (MW, Spectroscopy, etc.)
- Coating Rheology & Rheology Modifiers
- Color and Appearance

Wednesday, February 19

- Modern Methods of Surface Analysis
- Thermal Properties, Film Formation & Curing
- Tour of Facilities

Thursday, February 20

- Polyurethane and UV/Radiation Cure Technology
- Pigment Dispersion
- Coating Rheology-Applications
- Colloid Characterization Methods
- Formulating for the Environment
- VOC/Air Quality-Regulations, Analysis and Measurement

Friday, February 21

- VOC Compliant Resin and Colorant Technologies
- Specialty Filters
- Coating Service Life Prediction
- Wrap Up and Evaluations

SHORT COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Molly Burns (Manager, Environmental Affairs, Dunn-Edwards Company)

After earning her B.S. in Chemistry and M.S. in Polymers and Coatings from California Polytechnic State University, Molly worked as a Chemist II and Environmental Affairs Manager for Dunn-Edwards. Within the roles of Chemist I and II in the Product Development Department, she helped create and improve several product lines, including the 1K acrylic-epoxy industrial maintenance product EnduraCat. Molly has key responsibilities in chemical and VOC reporting, recycling and climate-related initiatives, and SDS and transparency document creation.

Gary Dombrowski (Research Fellow, Dow Chemical Company)

received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Minnesota in the area of physical organic chemistry. He worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Rochester's NSF Center for Photo-induced Charge Transfer. In 1998 he joined Rohm and Haas and became a Synthesis Group Leader in the Coatings business. After the acquisition of Rohm and Haas by Dow Chemical, he continued his career and product development and became a Research Fellow for Dow Coating Materials business.

Ray Fernando (Professor, California Polytechnic State University)

received his Ph.D. in 1986 from North Dakota State University in Polymers and Coatings, emphasizing studies in the coating rheology field. He has fifteen years of industrial experience in coatings, with extensive knowledge in waterborne technology, and joined Cal Poly in 2002. Dr. Fernando is the Arthur C. Edwards Endowed Chair in Coatings Technology in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and the Director of the Kenneth N Edwards Western Coatings Technology Center at Cal Poly. Prior to joining Cal Poly, he spent 3 years at Air Products and Chemicals, and 12 years at Armstrong World Industries in various R&D positions.

Michelle Gabriel-Caldwell (Applied Technology Specialist, BYK Additives Company)

has been with BYK USA Business Line Paint for over 18 years, and is currently the Senior Technical Representative for the Atlantic Region. In addition to those duties, she is the North American Applied Technology Specialist for Wetting & Dispersing Additives for all of BYK's Business Lines. She was formerly the BYK USA End Use Specialist for Powder Coatings for 11 years. Michelle began her coatings career at Benjamin Moore as an analytical chemist in 1992; after 3 years she advanced to product development chemist where she formulated various specialty solvent borne coatings. Michelle holds degrees in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry.

Rajeev Gorowara (Senior Technical Marketing Consultant, Chemours Company)

has worked in the Chemical Industry for over 25 years specializing in engineered particles. He is currently a Senior Technical Marketing Consultant, Titanium Technologies at The Chemours Company in Wilmington, Delaware. Prior to joining Chemours, Rajeev worked for DuPont in multiple roles, including 16 years as Principal Investigator & Consultant in the DuPont Engineering Particle Technology group, and worked on problems in every DuPont platform. Rajeev has a PhD in Chemical Engineering from The University of Delaware, specializing in composite materials, and an MS/BSChE from The Ohio State University.

Leslie Hamachi (Assistant Professor, California Polytechnic State University)

graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2013 with a BS in chemistry, with a concentration in materials chemistry. In 2018, she earned her PhD from Columbia University where she developed a library of new chalcogen precursors for use in core/shell nanocrystal synthesis. Subsequently, she joined Northwestern University as an NSF Center for Sustainable Polymers postdoctoral research fellow. Prior to joining Cal Poly, Dr. Hamachi worked in nanocrystal colloid R&D and manufacturing at Oxonica Materials, Inc., and taught as an adjunct professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Hamachi joined the Chemistry & Biochemistry department at Cal Poly in 2020 and supervises a research group focusing on colloidal covalent organic framework synthesis, sustainable polymers, and structural color in coatings.

Wallace Keller (Group Leader, Dunn-Edwards Company)

After earning a B.S. in Chemistry from Michigan Tech, Wally began working in the automotive coatings industry in the Detroit area and went on to earn a M.S. degree in Polymer and Coating Technology from Eastern Michigan. Before joining Dunn Edwards in 2018 Wally worked for various coatings and raw material manufacturers including AKZO Nobel, Sherwin Williams, Valspar, and BASF Colors & Effects. Professional topics of interest include functional coatings (specifically heat reflective coatings) and sustainable coatings formulations.

Pat Lutz (Technical Sales, EPS Color Corp)

received a B.A. and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1964 and 1970, respectively. He held many Technical Service, Market Research and Sales positions with DuPont Pigments and Chemicals Groups over a 25-year span. In 1993, he joined Dunn-Edwards Corporation as the Slurry Project Manager and was the Director of Labs and interfaced with extensively with regulatory agencies dealing with VOC discussions. In 2002, Pat joined EPS as the west coast Technical Sales Representative focusing on architectural resins and colorants. In this position, he has maintained an involvement in VOC discussions with regulators throughout North America.

Jim Macdonald (End Use Manager, BYK-Gardner USA)

is Business Line Manager – Industrial paint and coatings applications.

Kent Maghacut (Technical Marketing Manager, Lubrizol Corporation)

received his BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from Villanova University in PA. He is a Technical Marketing Manager for the Performance Coatings Group with Lubrizol Advanced Materials based in Brecksville, OH. He is responsible for the resins & polymers, hyperdispersants, and surface modifier portfolios for accounts on the US West Coast. Prior to working with Lubrizol, Kent was a technical service chemist with Ashland Specialty Ingredients for 9 years promoting and formulating with cellulosic and synthetic rheology modifiers, phosphate ester surfactants, and defoamers.

Scott Van Remortel (Manager, Technology and Innovation Covia Corporation)

is a Sr. Technology Manager at Covia Corporation. He earned his B.S. degree in Polymers & Coatings Technology from Eastern Michigan University in 1992. Scott has over 30 years of experience with mineral filler processing and applications development, holding several patents in mineral processing, coatings, UV-cure and thermoplastic composites. Scott is presently the co-chair for Cal Poly IAC student research committee and is an active IAC member.

Erik Sapper (Associate Professor, California Polytechnic State University)

has a BS degree in chemistry and a MS degree in Polymers and Coatings Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and holds a PhD in Coatings and Polymeric Materials from North Dakota State University. Erik's research focuses on the autonomous and computational discovery and design of new materials for coatings applications, especially at the intersection of polymer design, formulation, and coating service life prediction. In addition to his teaching and research efforts, Erik is also a Faculty Fellow in Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, mentoring student-led startups in the chemical and material domains.

Todd Williams (Field Technical Support, Covestro Company)

has been responsible for providing technical support to the coatings, adhesive, and sealant markets for Covestro since 2017. Prior to this role, he was responsible for activities in the protective and marine market since 2012, and joined Covestro in 2009 developing UV-curable coating formulations after leaving Segetis where he synthesized renewable polyester polyols. He holds a Ph.D. from The University of Southern Mississippi where he wrote his thesis on auto-oxidative crosslinking latex coatings.

Shanju Zhang (Professor, California Polytechnic State University)

received his Ph. D. in Polymer Chemistry and Physics from Jilin University, China in 1998. Prior to joining the Cal Poly faculty in 2011, he has held research positions at Yale University, Georgia Tech, Cambridge University, and Technical University of Berlin. His current research interest is focused on functional polymers for emerging applications in surface coatings and energy storage. He has published some 80 peer-reviewed papers and a patent. He is the recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship.

Shiyang Zheng (Applied Technology Director, Evonik Corporation)

has extensive industrial R&D and applied technology experience across a range of applications in specialty materials, from idea inception to commercialization and market adoption. Her area of expertise includes epoxy curing thermoset systems, polymer gas separation membranes, digital printing, medical imaging, and organic polymer light emitting diodes. Dr. Zheng's primary focus is on connecting technology to market trends and customer needs to drive new product development. She earned her Ph. D. in polymer chemistry from Cornell University, has authored multiple publications, and is an inventor of 49 issued US patents.



CAL POLY

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CAL POLY'S LEARN BY DOING LEGACY.

Los Angeles Society For Coatings Technology:

Every day we are inspired by the Cal Poly community — those whose passionate support helps empower our students, faculty and staff while shaping Cal Poly's future. We are incredibly grateful for your heartfelt generosity during this critical time.

Cal Poly was founded on the practice of Learn by Doing — and as our community learns to adapt this model in innovative ways, we are thankful for your dedication and investment in Cal Poly and our Learn by Doing legacy.

Wishing you and your families all the best.

With gratitude,

Your friends in University Development & Alumni Engagement

Visit coronavirus.calpoly.edu to stay up to date on Cal Poly's response to COVID-19 and business continuity.



CAL POLY

OFFICIAL GIFT RECEIPT

Date of Gift: November 12, 2024

\$1,525.12

Kenneth N. Edwards Western Coatings Technology Center Fund for Excellence

For recognition purposes, your name(s) may appear in University publications as:

Los Angeles Society for Coatings Technology

Email giving@calpoly.edu to update your honor roll name, or home and employment information.

Find out if your gift can be matched at giving.calpoly.edu/matching.

OFFICIAL GIFT RECEIPT

[GIVING.CALPOLY.COM](https://giving.calpoly.com)

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