

Orange County Section April Dinner Meeting
College Awards Dinner Meeting
Wednesday April 24, 2013

Concordia University, Irvine
1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612
Grimm Hall Conference Center (Grimm Hall, the Third Floor)

Travels Through Academia: One Chemist's Journey

Dr. Katherine A. Kantardjieff, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Science and Mathematics
California State University San Marcos

Registration & Social:	6:00pm	Dinner:	6:15pm
Presentation:	7:15pm	Awards Program:	8:00pm

Abstract: The “reaction coordinates” of my academic career have taken me through several remarkable intermediates and transition states on a chemist’s journey. These coordinates developed my early fascination about molecules into a genuine dedication to the scientific interests of X-ray diffraction, protein structure and drug discovery, and a lifetime commitment to advancing STEM education. The research has led to paradigm shifts in the way our science is practiced, as well as interesting, often unexpected results and discoveries towards developing new therapeutics for treating tuberculosis and combating drug resistant bacteria. A commitment to advancing STEM education has guided me to academic administration and national science advocacy. An academic scientist’s career path isn’t always a direct one. It can be filled with interesting side trips where we truly discover our talents and passions. We are moved by our love of learning and excited by new ideas. We are inspired by people, their knowledge, enthusiasm, and mentoring. We are motivated by the belief that applying new knowledge and insight has the capacity to benefit society. Our “reaction coordinates” can make possible travels filled with meaningful educational and professional experiences that hone our skills and enable us to pursue enthralling and challenging questions in science. .

Biography: Dr. Katherine Kantardjieff, a biophysical chemist and structural biologist, is the founding dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at California State University San Marcos. After joining the CSU as a faculty member at Cal State Fullerton in 1989, Dr. Kantardjieff conceived, established and currently still directs the W.M. Keck Foundation Center for Molecular Structure, a comprehensive X-ray diffraction facility and computational laboratory that is remotely accessible via the Internet as a core research and training facility. In 2008, Dr. Kantardjieff was named one of 14 Campus Technology Innovators for 2008 by Campus Technology Magazine, which recognizes those named for their “unique ability to advance teaching, learning, administration and operations on North American college and university campuses.” For her outstanding contributions to the development of biotechnology programs in the CSU, Dr. Kantardjieff was named the recipient of the Andreoli Faculty Service Award in 2009, the highest honor for faculty given by California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology. Dr. Kantardjieff continues to have impact on training of the biotechnology and chemical industry workforce in California, as well as preparing students for successful graduate careers. As a member and chair of the United States National Committee for Crystallography, Dr. Kantardjieff spearheaded efforts leading to publication of a policy document at the National Academy of Sciences, entitled “Crystallography Education Policies for the Physical and Life Sciences: Sustaining the Science of Molecular Structure in the 21st Century”. She currently chairs the Commission on Crystallographic Teaching for the International Union of Crystallography, she is Co-Editor for the Journal of Applied Crystallography, and she is engaged in national advocacy as chair of the National User Facility Organization. Dr. Kantardjieff received her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and biology from USC, and her master’s and doctorate degrees in physical chemistry from UCLA. She has brought in more than \$5 million in grants, including funds from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation and W.M. Keck Foundation. Dr. Kantardjieff has more than 60 publications on scientific research and education.

Reservations: Please visit www.OCACS.org and make your reservation no later than April 17, 2013 (Fri) 12 noon.