Cool Chemist:  Amy Wylie
from Celebrating Chemistry

What is your title and where do you work?
Senior Research and Development Specialist in the Business Development Group at Bayer Material Science.

What is your job?
I formulate polyurethane coatings that protect plastic parts from being scratched or damaged. I also invent “soft feel” coatings that can be found on handles of sports equipment. These “coats” protect objects.

What is the coolest part about what you do?
I design a coating in the lab and follow it all the way to where it is actually applied to a product.

How did you become a chemist?
I started working at Bayer Material Science while I was finishing my B. S. in life sciences from Pennsylvania State University. While still working at Bayer, I went back to school at the University of Pittsburgh to earn a second B. S. in chemistry. This degree helped me get a position as a coatings chemist.

What were your favorite subjects in school?
History and chemistry.

What made you first interested in science?
When I took a laboratory class for the first time, I enjoyed working hands-on to find a solution.

How would someone come in contact with your work?
You can see polyurethane coatings on plastics every day. They are used for plastic parts that are found in your car, sporting goods, or on toys, to name a few. A good example is the official soccer ball used for the World Cup championship. Bayer supplied polyurethane coatings and adhesives for that ball.

Anything else you would like to share about science?
Science is challenging, yet fun. It can be enjoyed by children of all ages. The wonders of science are all around us, even in our everyday lives.