SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE

● TEACHER AWARDS MEETING ●

Virginia State University
Petersburg, Virginia

Friday, September 18, 2020

NOTE: This will be a virtual meeting. You may participate via the Webex platform. See instructions on Page 6.

PRE-MEETING PROGRAM: 6:30 p.m. (a student presentation of an interactive “Thank a Teacher” program, via Webex)

PROGRAM: 7:00 p.m. (via Webex)

HOST: Dr. Colleen M. Taylor, cmtaylor@vsu.edu

SPEAKERS: Mr. Rodney Robinson, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. Teshell K. Ponteen Greene, FHI 360

TOPICS: “Living in Your Why” (Robinson, prerecorded)

“Igniting and Maintaining the Fire: Maximizing Learning Experiences to Successfully Recruit and Prepare Students to Thrive in the STEM Workforce” (Greene)

RECOGNITION OF 50-, 60-, and 70-YEAR MEMBERS

PRESENTATION OF TEACHER AWARDS
**Mr. Rodney Robinson**

Rodney is a 20-year teaching veteran. He started teaching at Virgie Binford Education Center in 2015, a school inside the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center, in an effort to better understand the school to prison pipeline. The knowledge he gained from his students is helping him to develop alternative programs to keep students from becoming part of the school to prison pipeline.

He has received numerous awards for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom, most notably he was named the 2019 National Teacher of the Year. He has used his platform as teacher of the year to advocate for economic equity and cultural equity to make sure that students have teachers and administrators who look like them and who value their culture. He has worked with Pulitzer winning author James Foreman to developing curriculum units on race, class, and punishment as a part of the Yale Teacher’s Institute. He was recently named HBCU male alumnus of the year by HBCUdigest.com. He was named #8 of top influential African Americans in 2019 by the Root Magazine. He currently works as a Senior Advisor for Richmond Public Schools in charge of the Male Teachers of Color Initiative. His passion is helping the underprivileged and underrepresented populations in America.

**“Living in Your Why”**

This will be a challenge to all teachers to focus on the importance of the work and why you became a teacher.

**Dr. Teshell K. Ponteen Greene**

Dr. Teshell K. Ponteen Greene is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Educator and Instructional Coach. She has worked on policies, pedagogical practices, and workforce development issues to offset educational disparities within the K-12 and higher education pipelines. This work is rooted in her desire to inspire and increase the number of students, especially economically disadvantaged and underrepresented minorities, to earn postsecondary credentials and become successful citizens.

Dr. Greene currently works at the non-profit organization FHI 360, as part of the National Institute for Work and Learning (NIWL), College and Career Readiness team. As the STEM, Manufacturing, and Design (STEM2D) Coach for the Youth Pillar Programs of the Johnson & Johnson’s Women in STEM2D (WiSTEM2D), she manages NIWL’s work in WiSTEM2D. WiSTEM2D is a J&J funded, global initiative which seeks to spark enchantment with STEM2D subjects for girls and increase the number of women entering into STEM2D fields. Dr. Greene coaches and provides technical assistance to J&J business leaders in the implementation of region specific youth programs in support of exposing, guiding, and preparing girls for careers in STEM2D fields. In her previous role as a biology professor, Dr. Greene’s work concentrated heavily on transforming classroom education experiences for students to meet their diverse learning styles. She created an equitable and inclusive learning culture that reinforced real-world scenarios, group work, and problem-based learning, for enhanced student learning. Her K-12 work supported STEM teachers professional development through coaching and curriculum design, and her personal interest led her to design and teach age-appropriate STEM activities for several outreach programs and non-profit organizations.

Dr. Greene credits her expertise in STEM education to the training she received as a Scientist through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) program at the Virginia Commonwealth University. From 2017 to
2019, Dr. Greene further explored her interest in education policy and STEM workforce development by participating in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship (STPF) program. Through her placement at the National Science Foundation (NSF), she led the overall evaluation efforts of three federally funded education programs that encouraged career preparations for students through non-academic internships.

Dr. Teshell K. Ponteen Greene earned her B.S in Chemistry from Pace University-NYC in 2005 and her Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. She is a proud native of the beautiful twin island federation of St. Kitts and Nevis and enjoys spending time outdoors.

“Igniting and Maintaining the Fire: Maximizing Learning Experiences to Successfully Recruit and Prepare Students to Thrive in the STEM Workforce”

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is central to who we are as a nation. Since the 1970s, growth in the United States STEM workforce sector has outpaced most others, with STEM workers earning on average 26% more than their counterparts. Despite this, many employers are struggling to recruit STEM-skilled staff. Lower matriculation rates in STEM subjects in the U.S compared to other countries have contributed to this trend as we have consistently seen reduced investments in resources for educators and students. A low matriculation into STEM is particularly evident among women and racially underrepresented groups, especially those who are first-generation college students. As a STEM Educator and Instructional Coach, I believe that offsetting these challenges begin with an early exposure to STEM and develop naturally in the informal K-12 education space. Furthermore, creating learning experiences for students that bridge content and knowledge with career awareness opportunities is central to students choosing to pursue STEM careers. Many students in K-12 and higher education steer away from STEM careers for various reasons, including but not limited to a lack of confidence that they can succeed in STEM (STEM Identity), misconceptions about STEM careers and opportunities, lack of mentors and role models to support their interest, and the inability to see real world connections to STEM. Integrating strategies that address these concepts into early STEM education can help students persist in STEM. In this session, I will share my experience as an Afro Caribbean woman navigating the STEM career path. I will also discuss my desire to offset educational disparities in K-12 and higher education, so that students will choose to pursue STEM and thrive in the workforce.

THE DISTINGUISHED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD

Dona Breen

Dona Breen has taught elementary school for the past twenty-three years, both in Maryland and in Virginia. This year will be her thirteenth year of teaching in Louisa County Public Schools. Born in Washington, D.C., she attended schools in Maryland and received her Bachelor’s Degree from Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. She worked in the Washington, DC, area for the federal government as a contract specialist for the Department of Energy on coal gasification projects and later for the Department of Defense at the Naval Ship R & D Center in Carderock, MD, working on contracts for steering mechanisms for ships. She left the Department of the Navy upon the birth of her first child in 1983 to become a full-time mother. In all, she spent thirteen years as a full-time mother to her three sons.

While at home with her three sons, she started work on a Master’s Degree in 1995. She earned her Master’s Degree in Instructional Systems Development from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. She taught first through third grades in Carroll County Public Schools, Maryland, fifth grade in Orange County Public Schools, Virginia, and fourth and fifth grades in Louisa County Public Schools.
While teaching fourth and fifth grades in Louisa County, she has focused on making science instruction meaningful and relevant for her students. In 2011, she applied for and received a grant to fund the construction of instructional gardens in the school courtyard for her students. They worked with Master Gardeners as well as a 4-H Extension Agent to plant native flowers to attract pollinators. As a part of the grant, they also placed weather instruments in the garden to gather and compare data on daily conditions.

As her interest in an inquiry-based approach to teaching science began, she applied for and received acceptance into the 2-year Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, to enhance her science content knowledge and improve her science teaching by applying the principles of hands-on science, student-centered inquiry, and problem-based learning. As a part of this program, she was given a grant to fund purchases of science equipment for her classroom so students could use real-life science tools in the pursuit of science investigations. During subsequent summers she also participated in workshops and summer courses designed for science educators at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. These opportunities also provided science content knowledge, strategies and science materials for her students to participate in hands-on science and student-centered inquiry. She feels passionate that every student who becomes immersed in real life science investigations and is actively engaged in developing science skills and strategies will enjoy a lifelong love of science and can see oneself as a scientist today and in the future.

THE DISTINGUISHED MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD

Jeffrey Peake

Jeffrey S. Peake, M.Ed., is a National Board Certified Teacher at Skyline Middle School in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Over the last 22 years, he has taught Journalism, Computers, and World Languages, Fourth, and Fifth Grade on the elementary level. He explored the STEM world by teaching STEM 8 (physics and chemistry) for two years. He also teaches a Science Methods class for students majoring in Early Elementary Education at James Madison University. But he finds his passion and love in the sixth grade science curriculum. Watersheds, energy and exploring the natural world is where it’s at!

In looking back over the past 22 years, there’s a common theme to his teaching. First, he integrates his passions into classroom learning. He ties in his love of fly fishing and the outdoors with the study of watersheds, ecosystems, and the natural world. Second, he is committed to providing students with experiential learning opportunities. Getting students out of the classroom and into the community is essential. Lastly, he is dedicated to serving the diverse student population, specifically providing underserved and immigrant students with opportunities that narrow the learning gap.

He was hooked into teaching when he took a summer job as an Interpreter for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He led small groups of elementary-aged children on nature hikes at Blue Hills Reservation outside of Boston. Students learned observation skills and participated in hands-on learning activities. They flipped over rocks to find critters, explored vernal pools, picked wild blueberries, and used their observation skills to study the natural world around them. He naively thought, “This is a piece of cake. This is what teaching must be like!”

His first teaching gig landed him in the inner-city Boston Public Schools. His first classroom was in the basement boiler room. Many of you reading this will fondly recall what teaching was about “back in the day”. No SOLs. No state-mandated, high-stakes testing. They had “free reign” of what and how they would teach. Like Sidney Portier in “To Sir, With Love,” he was going to provide his students with experiences.

He took his students EVERYWHERE to experience the world around them. Public transportation and walking the streets got them there and back. They ventured to the New England Aquarium, the
Franklin Park Zoo, the Museum of Science, the Arnold Arboretum, and the Museum of Fine Arts. It was then that he thought about giving his students more experiences with the natural world. They explored the ecosystems of saltmarshes, beaches, forests and meadows. They hiked to the top of Blue Hill and felt like they had just conquered Mount Everest. He had taught his students that our world was our classroom and we just needed to embrace and explore our surroundings.

To this day, he continues to teach through experiential learning, in and out of the classroom. During the school year, students raise brook trout from eggs to fingerlings in the classroom through Trout Unlimited’s Trout in the Classroom program. Each year, they take our class of 180 students to assess the quality of three local rivers. Students wade in the water to find macroinvertebrates, calculate the stream flow, and take chemical tests (nitrates, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen). Upon return to school, they compare their data. At the end of the school year, students release the brook trout in the stream they deemed most habitable for our trout. This provides a meaningful watershed experience for the diverse Harrisonburg inner-city youth.

To new teachers entering the field, he would encourage them to bring their passions into the classroom, seek ways to get students involved in their community, and use their teacher super-powers to reach those who need it the most.

He is honored and so very grateful to be the recipient of the Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher Award presented by the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society.

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**THE FRANKLIN D. KIZER DISTINGUISHED HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER AWARD**

**Gary Lutz**

Gary Lutz grew up in rural Indiana and worked for his father as a roofer and plumber for a few years. While working on roofs in the July and August heat, he remembered how he had enjoyed chemistry classes with Mr. Charles Mills and physics and math classes with Mr. Michael Bertram, so he decided to attend the University of Southern Indiana where he became a chemistry major. Largely due to the influence of Dr. Howard Dunn, his organic chemistry professor, Gary decided to attend graduate school. He earned his doctorate degree in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign while working with Dr. Peter Beak, primarily studying β-Lithiations of Carboxamides. He began his career as a process development chemist in the Acid Division of Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tennessee, where he worked for about seven years and participated in one major project that led to multiple patents. When his wife, Dr. Consuelo Alvarez, needed to fulfill certain visa obligations, he moved with her to Ecuador. While living on the outskirts of Quito, he had his first opportunity to experience teaching at the Universidad de San Francisco in Quito. As a non-Spanish speaker, the idea of teaching organic chemistry in Spanish could have been a real burden, but the enthusiastic students and the natural beauty of the country made it an adventure instead. After returning to the United States, he first came to Virginia when he went to work for Albright & Wilson in Richmond, Virginia. While working for Albright & Wilson, he explored his burgeoning interest in teaching by teaching a night class at John Tyler Community College. When the Richmond site of Albright & Wilson closed, Gary decided to completely transition to teaching and took a position at Longwood College. After being denied tenure, but loving the Farmville area, Gary started teaching at Prince Edward County High School where he has been teaching for the past 13 years.

Gary’s teaching philosophy derives largely from where he came from. Growing up in a rural environment where the expectation to study science was low, his teachers provided the encouragement and challenge to become more. Gary has always attempted to bring his industrial experience into the classroom in order to help make the material more relevant, but he has always felt that his most important purpose in the classroom is to create a place where students will begin to develop aspirations for more than they may have initially expected. Through a combination of rigorous daily challenge and appropriate support, students are encouraged to maximize their personal
mastery of the material. Gary uses the natural challenge of the AP chemistry course coupled with the extra level of competition offered by the Chemistry Olympiad to challenge students to search for more. As the students skill grows, their confidence and belief in themselves grows as well. For Gary, helping students unlock their deeper potential and seeing them really begin to believe in themselves is the most rewarding aspect of teaching.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING USING WEBEX**

If your email address is on the national roster that is used for Section mailings or you are an invited guest, you should receive an email from messenger@webex.com with meeting host, Dr. Colleen Taylor. Click the registration link that will autofill and only require that you confirm your email. You will immediately receive a confirmation email to access later to join the event and another reminder on the day of the event. Once you click on join the event, you will see event materials on the lower left side of the screen before you click “join now” on the upper right side of the screen. You can access those materials even if the meeting has not started yet, during the meeting, or after the meeting has ended.

If you do not receive the email from messenger@webex.com, look in your spam/junk folder or simply join using the following link and event password 1234:

https://vsu.webex.com/vsu/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7dacfccc61c1cfc7b982155214de39d8

or you can also contact Dr. Taylor directly at cmtaylor@vsu.edu.

We recommend joining using computer audio. However, if you just wish to call in, here is the call-in number along with the rest of the event information:

- **Host:** Colleen Taylor (cmtaylor@vsu.edu)
- **Event Number (access code):** 132 479 3831
- **Registration ID:** Not required for this event
- **Event Password:** 1234

**Friday, September 18, 2020, 6:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time**

**ACCESSING THE RECORDING OF THE SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING**

The September 18 meeting of the Virginia Section will be recorded for cloud storage. If you cannot access the live version of the meeting on the 18th or would like to review the meeting, you can access the recorded version by clicking on the link that will be placed on the Virginia Section website: http://www.acsva.org. Note: The link should be posted on the website by September 22.
THE CHAIR’S CORNER

The Virginia Section remains committed to helping our members navigate the numerous challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are continuing our 2020 planned activities as virtual meetings and I hope to see very strong participation from the section members to make these events as successful as possible. On September 18, we will have a Webex meeting organized by Virginia State University, recognizing three terrific chemistry and science teachers of Virginia. This year’s awardees are Dona Breen, the Distinguished Elementary School Science Teacher Award winner, from Moss-Nuckols Elementary School in Louisa County; Jeffrey Peake, the Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher Award winner, from Skyline Middle School in Harrisonburg; and Gary Lutz, the Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award winner, from Prince Edward County High School. Each awardee will receive a plaque and a check for $300. Each school will receive a check for $300 to use for science teaching. Many thanks to our Teacher Awards Committee chaired by Larry White for the excellent work of the committee identifying these outstanding teachers in Virginia, especially during this very challenging and unprecedented time in our lives. During the September 18 Webex meeting, we will also recognize our 50-, 60- and 70-year ACS members. Their Recognition Certificates from the ACS President Luis Echegoyen have been sent to their home addresses.

I encourage you to attend our coming October and November virtual meetings and I urge you to contact me with recommendations for speakers, events and activities for the coming year. Also, please visit our website: http://www.acsva.org for the latest information about the Virginia Section.

Stay safe and to continue working together to overcome this pandemic and emerge stronger and more resilient for the future.

Samy El-Shall, Virginia Section Chair  mselshal@vcu.edu

OCTOBER MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION

The October meeting of the Virginia Section will be held in virtual format. The meeting will be at Virginia Union University in Richmond with Dr. Karl Jackson as the host. The speaker will be Dr. LaTia Scott. The R. Gerald Bass Award for Exceptional Service and the Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the October Meeting. Details of the meeting and the procedure for accessing it will be in the October Bulletin and on the Section website: www.acsva.org.
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

This year's Women's Leadership Workshop will be presented by the Women Chemists Committee and the Younger Chemists Committee in two parts. Part I will be held on Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, and will feature Susan Stanitski as the Keynote Speaker. She is the Director of the Norfolk, Virginia Department of Forensic Science. Part II is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, and the Keynote Speaker will be Chanté Summers, Senior Associate Scientist at Pfizer in St. Louis and co-chair of the Minority Affairs Committee of the St. Louis Section of the ACS.

Both sessions will be virtual using the Zoom platform. The registration link for the September 26 session is https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfuupqzkjHtXrj2nPpLHdQJz4vRjMbwd. Both sessions will feature breakout and networking sessions. The breakout sessions on September 26 will be focused on leadership; there will be career discussions as well. For more information, contact Stacey Sank, Chair of the Women Chemists Committee at stacey.x.sank@gsk.com or Julian Bobb, Chair of the Younger Chemists Committee at bobbja@vcu.edu.

PROJECT SEED REPORT

Submitted by Mike Hunnicutt, Project SEED Coordinator for the Virginia Section

Summer 2020 marks the 52nd year of the ACS Project SEED Program. The American Chemical Society announced its decision to cancel the 2020 SEED research program on April 29th. In place of the traditional research program model, ACS created a 4-week virtual summer camp focused on some of the non-technical benefits of Project SEED such as lab safety, communicating and understanding chemistry research, and professional development and college-academic readiness. The virtual camp was curated, organized, and run by the national ACS office. Project SEED students selected received a small stipend and spent ~20 hours per week participating in a virtual ‘cabin’ for their ‘campsite’. The cabin activities included a series of webinars, virtual panels, writing and research assignments, and discussions in a small-group setting.

Section Participation in the ‘Virtual Campsite’ Project SEED Program:

Antonio Harvey from Prince Edward County High School was selected to participate in the virtual SEED program as a SEED II student. Antonio was one of two Project SEED students in Longwood’s inaugural program in 2019. Sarah Porter (Longwood University) and Gina McDonald (James Madison University) were selected to be Campsite Managers and Keira Naff (Longwood University undergraduate) was selected as a Cabin Leader. Jon White, a Longwood professor, volunteered to do a research seminar on Pt anti-cancer drugs as part of the virtual camp program. The 4-week program ran Monday through Friday from July 6 – July 31. Each Campsite Manager managed two to three cabins consisting of ~10 Project SEED students. Cabin Leaders were undergraduate students and post-docs who each managed one cabin and got paid a stipend.
Other SEED-related news:

Three VA section schools were on-track to host 2020 Project SEED research programs before the COVID outbreak: James Madison University, Longwood University, and VCU. This is a new highwater mark for the VA Section. VCU program leaders met with new members of the Richmond Public High School (RPS) leadership and gained approval for the SEED program to be officially recognized and sponsored by RPS. T. Epp (Chief Academic Officer), A. Nabors (Director of Curriculum & Instruction), and Josh Bearman (Science Curriculum and Instructional Specialist) are the sponsors. SEED directly supports Dreams4RPS priority 2.6 (RPS Strategic Plan).

As an extension of the SEED program, VCU Chemistry hosted three Professional Development resource days for RPS high school chemistry teachers. Interactive classroom and lab activities were designed and delivered based on RPS input.

Longwood’s SEED research program is run in conjunction with the AEOP-REAP program, which serves underserved and underrepresented high school students in other STEM fields. Prior to the COVID outbreak, Longwood had a record number of applicants to the program, from four high schools in the area (up from two schools last year).

GRAHAM LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The annual Graham Lecture will be held on Thursday, October 15, 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Dr. Chad Mirkin, Director of the International Institute for Nanotechnology, and the George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry and Bio Eng, Biomed Eng, Materials Sci & Eng, and Medicine at Northwestern University, will be the featured speaker. The title of his talk is “Repurposing the Blue Print of Life for Materials Design,” The program will be at 7:00 pm and will be presented via Zoom. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Vivian Feggans at vmf5c@virginia.edu; (434) 982-5485.

GRANTS FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

The Virginia Section provides small grants ($50 - $500) to teachers for projects involving science teaching. The grants can be used to purchase materials and equipment for specific activities in science classrooms and laboratories. No funds are provided for personnel costs. More information and a proposal form can be found on the Virginia Section website: acsva.org. Look for the Chemical Education tab under “About Us.” Or contact Dr. Kristine Smetana at kristine.smetana@southside.edu.

YCC IMPLEMENTS THE ACS VIRGINIA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

"Guiding the Future of Chemistry"

The ACS Virginia Local Section Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) recently rolled out the ACS Virginia Mentorship Program. Twenty-one mentees (students and young professionals) are participating in the program this year. We are proud to say that some of the
undergraduate students in the program are serving in leadership roles at their respective schools’ chemistry clubs and ACS student affiliate chemistry chapters. Four of the students (undergraduates & graduates) are also serving in various roles in our local section younger chemists committee. The process of the ACS Virginia Mentorship Program involved: (1) sending out a flyer to recruit local active and retired scientists/engineers to sign up to be mentors; (2) reaching out to college students and young professionals to sign up for the program; (3) hosting meetings with the mentors and mentees to discuss strategies on how to increase engagement and provide updates on the plans for the program; (4) asking the mentors and mentees to create a profile whereby they provided information such as company or school affiliation, work and research experiences, career aspirations, times of availability, and hobbies; and (5) hosting the mentorship program social.

Prior to the mentees signing up for the program, Julian Bobb (YCC chair) talked to them individually about the program and the benefits of being a mentee. The 19 Mentors (scientists and engineers) participating are from local chemical and pharmaceutical companies; three of them are recent retirees. On Saturday, August 22, 2020, the YCC hosted a Mentorship Program Social for the mentors and mentees virtually via Zoom. At the social, Julian Bobb talked briefly about what the YCC is, the goals for the program, and the core values and program expectations. The mentors and mentees were given the opportunity to get to know each other and to develop their mentorship work plans.

The work plan is for the mentees/mentors to discuss their method of communication, activities they’ll do together, decide on how long they’ll participate in the program together, and to discuss what they both want to get out of the mentorship relationship. Julian Bobb followed up with the mentors/mentees pairs that were unable to attend the social to ensure that they have the necessary resources to initiate their mentorship relationship.

Special thanks to YCC executive committee member and social media chair, Ashley Tubbs (PhD Chemistry Student at Virginia Commonwealth University) for assisting with the social. This program is being sponsored by a grant awarded by the ACS National Younger Chemists Committee.

[Dr. Julian Bobb, Chair, Virginia Section YCC]

**YCC PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES METT GRANT**

The ACS Virginia, Philadelphia, and Eastern New York Local Section Younger Chemists Committees (YCC) received a 2020 ACS Members Engaging Through Technology (METT) Grant. The $750 Award will be used for virtual professional development activities to support the needs of younger chemists in the current COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal was entitled, “Mastering the Virtual World: Professional Development by Younger Chemists for Younger Chemists”. This grant was awarded by the National ACS Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) and will be stewarded by the Eastern New York Section. The YCC groups in the Virginia, Philadelphia, and Eastern New York sections have cooperated to meet the needs of younger chemists. Reports on two webinars held in June appeared in the July issue of The Bulletin. See below for a report on two more joint YCC events.

**JOINT YCC PARTNERSHIP HOSTS WEBINARS**

On Thursday July 30, 2020, the ACS Virginia, Eastern New York, Philadelphia, and Nashville Sections Younger Chemists Committees (YCCs) hosted a virtual event “A Day in the Life of an Assistant Professor” via Zoom. The speaker of this event was Dr. Scott M. Simpson, an assistant professor of chemistry at St. Bonaventure University, a small liberal arts institution located in Western NY. In 2015, Dr. Simpson received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. His expertise in computational chemistry has resulted in 24 peer-reviewed articles. His research is currently being funded by the National Science Foundation and the ACS Petroleum Research Fund.
On Thursday August 27, 2020, the ACS Virginia, Eastern New York, Northern New York, Philadelphia, Nashville, and St. Louis Sections Younger Chemists Committees (YCCs) hosted another virtual program via Zoom: “A Day in the Life of a Chemist in STEM Outreach”. The speaker for this event was Omayra L. Padilla de Jesús, Ph.D., MBA. Dr. Padilla de Jesús serves as the founding Executive Director of Rise High Inc., incorporated in January 2017. Rise High, funded and founded by The Little Family Foundation, is a STEM program that serves under-resourced youth in Schenectady City, New York with weekly programming that is engaging and designed to exercise problem-solving and critical thinking. In the community, Dr. Padilla de Jesús also serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Distribution Committee of The Schenectady Foundation, is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Schenectady City Mission, and a member of the Advisory Board of Clarkson University’s Master of Arts Teaching Program.

These webinars are part of a monthly series that features speakers from different chemistry fields who share their career experiences. This virtual platform is flexible which makes it easier to access speakers from across the country. At both events, the speakers shared with the attendees their educational, research, career, and professional development experiences, with time allotted for a Q&A session between the speaker and the participants. A total of 25 younger chemists attended the two sessions.

[report by Dr. Julian Bobb, Chair of the Virginia Section YCC]

DR. ROBERT GILLIARD - ONE OF THE 2020 TALENTED TWELVE

Each year C&EN selects twelve young scientists who are using their chemistry talents to change the world. Dr. Robert J. Gilliard, Jr., an inorganic chemist at the University of Virginia (UVA), has been selected as one of this year’s “Talented Twelve.” He and the other eleven members of the class of 2020 are profiled in the August 10/17, 2020 issue of C&EN (CEN.ACS.ORG). Dr. Gilliard is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at UVA. He has a B.S. degree from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He was a UNCF/Merck, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at ETH Zürich and Case Western University from 2014 until 2017 before joining the chemistry department at UVA. His areas of research include Synthetic Chemistry, Main-Group and Organometallic Chemistry, Bond Activation and Catalysis, and Hybrid Materials. His research group synthesized, isolated, and crystallized the first known stable beryllium radical cation (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2020, 142, 4560-4564). He is also the director of chemistry undergraduate research at UVA.

CORRECTION TO THE JULY ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

In the “REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION” that appeared in the July issue of The Bulletin, the captions for four photographs were incorrect. In each one, Frank Gupton was incorrectly listed as his brother John Gupton.
## CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENTS AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE VIRGINIA SECTION

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<tr>
<th>School/Location</th>
<th>Department Chair/Program Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater College</td>
<td>Dr. Kenneth S. Overway</td>
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<td>College of William &amp; Mary</td>
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<td>James Madison University</td>
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<td>Longwood University</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Porter</td>
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<td>University of Mary Washington</td>
<td>Dr. Janet Asper</td>
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<td>University of Richmond</td>
<td>Dr. Christopher L. Stevenson</td>
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<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>Dr. Jill Venton</td>
<td>(434) 243-2131</td>
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<td>Charlottesville, VA 22904-4319</td>
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<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia State University</td>
<td>Dr. Grace Ndip</td>
<td>(804) 524-5064</td>
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<td>Petersburg, VA 23806</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gndip@vsu.edu">gndip@vsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Union University</td>
<td>Dr. Dorothy Eseonu</td>
<td>(804) 257-5615</td>
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CHEMISTRY AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Chemistry at Virginia State University means small classes, frequent contact with instructors, and plenty of individual attention. Classes and laboratories are taught by faculty members who are dedicated to excellence in teaching. Facilities, equipment, and personnel provide opportunities for undergraduate research and student-originated projects. Students are expected not only to master the principles and theory of chemistry, but to become proficient in laboratory techniques, instrumental methods, computer applications, and the use of the chemical literature with a heavy emphasis on written and oral communication skills. The department offers a BS in Chemistry, a concentration in Forensic Chemistry and a Biochemistry/Pre-professional curriculum for students interested in professional schools.

Students in the department are involved in a wide variety of research work with projects ranging from chemical education to the fabrication of biosensors and the characterization of metal-silica hybrid materials using Raman spectroscopy. Student researchers are supported by the VSU HBCU-UP, LS-AMP and RIMI programs. The ACS student affiliate is very active, recently presenting a poster at the 100-year Gala for the Virginia Section, highlighting a decade of service. Their volunteer work includes tutoring fellow students, participating annually in National Chemistry Week at the Science Museum of Virginia, the Fool for the Arts Festival in Chesterfield County, the Christmas Angel Tree, the Girls in Science event sponsored by DuPont, and the Exxon Mobil Hispanic Youth Day. The students were awarded an Undergraduate Student Affiliate Grant to sponsor the undergraduate program at SERMACS 2011.

NEW FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS OF THE ACS

Congratulations to these members of the Virginia Section who have been active in the American Chemical Society for fifty years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIFTY-YEAR ACS MEMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Larry P. Davis</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. James N. Demas</td>
<td>Charlottesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Stephen A. Haut</td>
<td>Midlothian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. James A. Kaeser</td>
<td>Chester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Joseph Topich</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Virginia A. White</td>
<td>Warrenton</td>
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NEW SIXTY-YEAR MEMBERS OF THE ACS

Congratulations to these members of the Virginia Section who have been active in the American Chemical Society for sixty years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIXTY-YEAR ACS MEMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Marvin R. Boots</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Joseph F. Borzelleca</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. John W. Gilje</td>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Norman T. Huff</td>
<td>Warrenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Emery C. Lazar</td>
<td>Castleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. William H. McCarty</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Lawrence G. Vaughan</td>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. George C. Whitney III</td>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NEW SEVENTY-YEAR MEMBER OF THE ACS

Congratulations to this member of the Virginia Section who has been active in the American Chemical Society for seventy years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVENTY-YEAR ACS MEMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Harry S. Wilbur</td>
<td>Glen Allen</td>
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NOMINEES FOR 2021 SECTION OFFICERS

The Virginia Section Nominations Committee has announced these candidates for 2021 officers of the Section:

For CHAIR: Dr. LaChelle Waller For CHAIR ELECT: Ms. Vanessa Lopez
For VICE CHAIR: Dr. Jack Brown For TREASURER: Dr. Rob Davidson
For SECRETARY: Dr. Julian Bobb For COUNCILOR (2021-2023): Dr. Linette Watkins
For ALTERNATE COUNCILOR (2021-2023): Dr. Joseph Crockett
For Trustee (2021-2023): Dr. James Demas

Biographies of the candidates will be published in the October Bulletin.
Electronic balloting will be conducted in October.
Write-in candidates will be accepted for all offices.
CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

September 11 - Dr. Jin Zhang, University of San Diego, “Illuminating the Biochemical Activity Architecture of the Cell”
September 18 - Dr. Frieder Jaekle, Rutgers University, Newark, “Borane Lewis Acids and B-N Lewis Pairs: From Molecules to Materials”
September 25 - Dr. Dmitri Talapin, University of Chicago
October 2 - Dr. Jerry Meyer, University of North Carolina
October 9 - Dr. Alexander Zestos, American University, “Polymer Modified Carbon Fiber Microelectrodes and Multielectrode Arrays for Multiplexing Neurochemical Measurements”
October 15 - Dr. Chad Mirkin, Northwestern University, “Repurposing the Blue Print of Life for Materials Design”
October 23 - Dr. Bhavya Sharma, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
October 28 - Dr. Chris Thomas, Ohio State University
November 6 - Dr. William Pomerantz, University of Minnesota
November 13 - Dr. Bryan Dickinson, University of Chicago

Seminars are held virtually at 3:30 pm. More information: chem@virginia.edu; (434) 924-3344

CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

September 24 - Dr. Jerome Delhommelle, University of North Dakota
October 1 - Dr. Claude Verani, Wayne State University
October 8 - Dr. Andrew Marcus, Oregon State University
October 22 - Dr. Arkadi Vigalok, Tel Aviv University
October 29 - Dr. Ronald Castellano, University of Florida

Seminars are held via Zoom at 4:00 pm. More information: chemistry@vcu.edu; (804) 828-1298

CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have had a change in your personal information (mailing address, telephone number, email address), please let the membership office of the national ACS know. We use the information on their roster to communicate with our Local Section members. The correct email address is especially important since we use those to send our meeting notices and notification of the Bulletin postings on our website. Contact Member Services via email at service@acs.org or call them at (800) 333-9511 or (614) 447-3776.