JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

Friday, January 29, 2021

NOTE: This will be a virtual meeting. You may participate via Zoom. See instructions on Page 3 below.

SCHEDULE: 6:00 pm - Networking Session - “Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in the Workplace”
6:40 pm - YCC Program
7:00 pm - Speaker

MEETING SPONSOR: Younger Chemists Committee (YCC)
MEETING HOST: Dr. Julian Bobb, bobbja@vcu.edu
ZOOM HOST: Dr. Julian Bobb, bobbja@vcu.edu
SPEAKER: Dr. Jeffrey I. Seeman, University of Richmond

TOPIC: “The Mutation of the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry’ into the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry or Life Sciences’: Several Decades of Transparent and Opaque Evidence of Change within the Nobel Prize Program”

Pre-Programs on Zoom

The main program featuring Dr. Seeman’s talk will begin at 7:00 pm. Prior to that, a pre-program will feature a networking session and an informational program on the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC). Julian Bobb, Chair of the YCC for the Virginia Section, and Vanessa Lopez, Chair-Elect of the Section, have organized these optional activities. Tune in with Zoom if you want to participate in either or both of these. In the virtual networking portion, there will be randomized breakout sessions that will enable small groups of participants to meet and socialize. The theme will be “Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in the Workplace.” In the YCC part, Julian will share information on some of the 2020 activities and how cooperation with other local sections has provided more programming content and enlarged the scope of YCC activities and participation.
Dr. Jeffrey I. Seeman

Jeffrey I. Seeman (Department of Chemistry, University of Richmond, Virginia, USA) has over 200 publications in fields as diverse as natural products chemistry, chemical physics, responsible conduct of research, and the history and sociology of chemistry. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He created and manages the Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award program for the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (ACS). He has served as Chair of the ACS Division of History of Chemistry, on the Board of Directors of the Chemical Heritage Foundation and Chair of CHF’s Heritage Council, and on the advisory boards of the Petroleum Research Fund, The Journal of Organic Chemistry and Accountability in Research. He holds the record for the most talks given to the Virginia Section—this will be his seventh presentation at a Section meeting. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Section.

“The Mutation of the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry’ into the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry or Life Sciences’: Several Decades of Transparent and Opaque Evidence of Change within the Nobel Prize Program”

Over the past several decades, the Nobel Prize program has slowly but steadily been modified in both transparent and opaque ways. A transparent change has been the creation of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, more officially known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. An opaque change has been the mutation of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry into what is effectively the “Nobel Prize in Chemistry or Life Sciences.” This presentation will present a detailed study of this opaque change, including evidence that the disciplines of chemistry and biochemistry cover, today, intellectually quite distinct and generally scientifically unrelated intellectual territory. The speaker supports the evolution of the Nobel Prizes, and encourages the Nobel Prize program to move from opaque to transparent change processes for the next generations of achievement in the sciences.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION

February 26 - Dr. Joseph S. Francisco, “A Fresh Look at the Chemistry Behind Acid Rain and Implications for Climate Geoengineering” - hosted by the University of Richmond

March 19 - Annual Awards Meeting with presentations by award recipients

April 16 - Dr. James Demas, “A Random Walk Through 60 Years of Chemistry” and Undergraduate Poster Session - hosted by the University of Virginia

NOTE: The February 26 meeting will be virtual, in the Zoom format. Other meetings may also be virtual. Check the Section website: www.acsva.org.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE JANUARY 29 MEETING USING ZOOM

The online presentation of the January 29 meeting will use the Zoom format. Dr. Julian Bobb, bobbja@vcu.edu; (804) 908-8623, Chair of the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) of the Virginia Section, is the meeting host.

**Topic:** Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) - January Meeting 2021  
**Time:** 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
**Date:** January 29, 2021

You are invited to this Zoom meeting on Friday, **January 29**, 2021 at 06:00 PM Eastern Time.

Please register in advance for this meeting using this link:  
https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/meeting/register/tZ0ocO2oqzgqE9QxYdq4jWj266_dlt26F3I

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting on January 29. **Please register by Wednesday, January 27.** If you have problems with the registration process, contact Julian Bobb at bobbja@vcu.edu.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Virginia Section will meet virtually at 11:00 am on **Saturday, January 30**. This meeting will use the Zoom platform. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent by email to all members of the Executive Committee and to other interested persons. All members of the Virginia Section are invited to participate in the meeting. If you are not a member of the Executive Committee, send your email address to Dr. LaChelle Waller, Chair of the Virginia Section, to request the Zoom link: lmwaller@vcu.edu.

Officers and committee chairs should prepare reports for distribution to the members of the Executive Committee. Send reports to LaChelle Waller at lmwaller@vcu.edu. If you have budget requests for 2021 and have not sent them to Dr. Rob Davidson, Section Treasurer, please forward them to him immediately: rob.davidson@aftonchemical.com. Approval of the Section’s annual budget will be an important function of the Executive Committee at the meeting on January 30.

The Executive Committee includes the Section officers, councilors, alternate councilors, trustees, and committee chairs, plus some at-large members. Contact Dr. Waller if you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee. The Committee meets twice a year to discuss Section business and to set the Section’s budget.
THE CHAIR’S CORNER

Happy holidays and season’s greetings to all the members of the Virginia Section. It has been a pleasure to serve as the 2020 Chair of the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society during the most difficult and stressful time of our lives because of the global crisis of COVID-19. We have already been through months of the pandemic and, we hope that with the approval of new vaccines, the end of this crisis will be in sight soon. In spite of the pandemic, we have accomplished a lot this year after adapting and navigating numerous new challenges.

This year, our section hosted only two in-person section meetings, on January 24 and February 28. The January meeting was held at the Enthalpy Laboratories in Richmond to recognize the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award, Dr. B. Jill Venton, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry at UVA, and the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Rob Davidson, Senior Research Scientist at Afton Chemical in Richmond. The February meeting (Powell Lecture) was held at the University of Richmond with a talk on “Pharmaceutical Processing in the 21st Century” by Dr. Frank Gupton, Professor and Chair of the Chemical and Life Science Engineering Department at VCU. Our March and April meetings were cancelled because of the COVID pandemic, but we found ways to adapt and conducted virtual meetings in September, October and November with very strong participation from the section members.

In April, the section honored 15 outstanding senior chemistry majors from 15 colleges and universities in Virginia with the Undergraduate Chemistry Student Awards which consisted of a certificate, a one-year membership in the ACS, and a copy of the book “The Disappearing Spoon” by Sam Kean.

On September 18, the section held the first Zoom meeting, organized by Virginia State University to recognize the recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Awards of Virginia: Dona Breen, the Distinguished Elementary School Science Teacher Award winner from Moss-Nuckols Elementary School, Louisa County; Jeffrey Peake, the Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher Award winner, from Skyline Middle School, Harrisonburg; and Gary Lutz, the Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award winner from Prince Edward County High School. The speakers at the September zoom meeting were Mr. Rodney Robinson, the 2019 National Teacher of the Year and Dr. Teshell Ponteen Greene, the well-known STEM Educator and Instructional Coach at FHI 360.

On October 16, the section held the second Zoom meeting, organized by Virginia Union University with a talk on “Wound Healing: from Eye to Foot” by Dr. LaTia Scott, Professor of Biological Sciences at Delaware State University. In this October meeting, Dr. Ann Sullivan, Professor of Chemistry at Reynolds Community College, received the Gerald Bass Award for Exceptional Service to the Virginia section, and Dr. Michael Hunnicutt, VCU Chemistry Professor, was recognized for receiving the 2020 Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award for the Virginia Section.
STACEY SANK NAMED OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Stacey Sank, Chair of the Women Chemist Committee for the Virginia Section, has been selected as the Section’s Outreach Volunteer of the Year for 2021. Each year, the ACS recognizes a member of the Section as the Outreach Volunteer of the Year. Virginia Section members recognized in past years include Michael Hunnicutt (2020), Julian Bobb (2019), Heather Lourenco (2018), Stephanie Mabry (2017), and Colleen Taylor (2016). Stacey has worked with the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) for several years and has been the chair of the committee since 2019. She is a Process Engineer at GSK in Richmond. She says “I love science outreach as it provides opportunity for networking and community engagement with a goal to empower and promote STEM.”
On January 14, 2021, the ACS Virginia, Eastern New York, Northern New York, Rochester, Philadelphia, Nashville, North Carolina, and St. Louis Section Younger Chemists Committees (YCCs), along with the Graduate Student Society of the University of Puerto Rico–Río Piedras, hosted “A Day in the Life of an Eastern US YCC Graduate Student” from 6:00 – 7:00 PM ET via Zoom. This event featured four outstanding chemistry Ph.D. graduate students: Ashley Tubbs (Electroanalytical Chemistry, Virginia Commonwealth University), Fatima Mustafa (Analytical Chemistry, Clarkson University), Isabella Goodenough (Physical/Analytical Chemistry, Temple University), and Salsabil Abou-Hatab (Computational Chemistry, Temple University). The four graduate students, all of whom are
executive committee members of the Eastern US YCC Partnership, discussed their volunteer involvements within the YCC and their research project and graduate student responsibilities, followed by some parting advice for the attendees. Each speaker spoke for about ten minutes, followed by a brief Q&A session. This event was hosted by Megan Chambers (Ph.D. Forensic Chemistry Student, University of Albany) and Georgia Dittemore (chemistry undergraduate student, Skidmore College). The 35 early career chemist attendees learned about the YCC, the Eastern US YCC Partnership, ACS membership, and upcoming events. This YCC group is looking forward to continuing to host the Day in the Life series, featuring speakers from the pharmaceutical industries, government labs, and more.

THE VIRGINIA SECTION PARTICIPATES IN ‘SHARE YOUR STORY’ AT THE 2021 ACS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE EXPERIENCE

On January 9 and 10, 2021, the American Chemical Society (ACS) kicked-off its Virtual Leadership Institute Experience via Zoom. The Virginia Section of the ACS was among four local sections (Virginia, Philadelphia, New Haven, and Greater Houston) that participated in the ‘Share Your Story’ portion of the program. The aim was to highlight successful virtual programs hosted by these local sections in 2020, during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Julian Bobb, Chair of Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) for the Virginia Section, gave a brief presentation on the featured program “Mastering the Virtual World: Professional Development for Younger Chemists by Younger Chemists”. Dr. Bobb shared information on how the program was developed, how other local section YCCs were involved with organizing and promoting the program, its assessment and impact, and other highlights and lessons learned. Dr. Bobb co-founded the Eastern US YCC Partnership, comprising the Virginia, Eastern New York, Northern New York, Rochester, Philadelphia, North Carolina, Nashville, and St. Louis Local Sections, along with the Graduate Student Society of the University of Puerto Ric–Río Piedras. The talk was attended by approximately 125 ACS members, primarily local section leaders.

ANN SULLIVAN TRIBUTE BOOK AND PRESENTATION

On October 16, 2020, the Virginia Section presented the R. Gerald Bass Award for Exceptional Service to Dr. Ann Marie Sullivan. A tribute book was prepared for Ann in recognition to her outstanding work in the Virginia Section and the American Chemical Society. The book includes information on the Bass award and on some of the ways that Ann has served the Virginia Section and the national ACS. There are also tributes and comments from 18 persons and many photographs showing Ann in various ACS activities. A copy of the tribute book has been put on the Virginia Section website. Also on the Virginia Section website, there is a PowerPoint presentation on Ann’s ACS work that she prepared for the virtual meeting of the Section on October 16. If you would like to see Ann’s PowerPoint show and/or the tribute book, go to www.acsva.org. The two links are given on the home page of the website.
The Virginia Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is hosting the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO).

Local Competition: March 27, 2021, online (registration deadline March 5)
National Exam: April 2021 (TBA)

Contact: Dr. Sarah Porter, portersg@longwood.edu

Select students participating in the Virginia Local Section’s Local Chemistry Olympiad Competition will be nominated to advance to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam. The 20 top-scoring students are chosen to attend a study camp.

Eligibility

Students must be U.S. citizens or legal, permanent residents of the United States (green card holders) to take the U.S. national examination

High school students who will graduate no earlier than spring of the year that they participate in the competition are eligible.

Students must be under 20 years of age on the first of July of the year of the competition.

Students must be nominated by a teacher using this form:
https://forms.gle/dSEJodYVjGHZggAQ8

I WANT YOU
for the U.S National Chemistry Olympiad

www.acs.org/olympiad
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The annual Awards Meeting has been postponed until March 19. Several awards will be presented to members of the Virginia Section:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Distinguished Research Award
- Industrial Leadership Award
- Outstanding Innovator Award

The recipients will be announced in the February issue of The Bulletin. Full information on the award winners and on the March 19 meeting will be in the March issue.

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 activities in science classrooms and laboratories. No funds are provided for personnel costs. More information and a proposal form can be found on the Section website: acsva.org. Look for the Chemical Education tab under “About Us,” or contact Dr. Kristine Smetana at kristine.smetana@southside.edu.
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 to make changes.

CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

February 12 - Dr. Susanna L. Widicus Weaver, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Prebiotic Astrochemistry in the ‘THz-Gap’”

February 19 - Dr. Jillian Dempsey, University of North Carolina, “Elucidating Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer Mechanisms Underpinning the Catalytic Generation of Renewable Fuels”

February 24 - Dr. Jingguang Chen, Columbia University, “Chemical Engineering Approaches for Catalytic Reduction of CO₂”

February 26 - Dr. Joshua Figueroa, University of California, San Diego

March 5 - Dr. Dan Mindiola, University of Pennsylvania

March 12 - Dr. Sloan Siegrist, University of Massachusetts

March 24 - Dr. Frank Bennett, Ionis Pharmaceuticals (Hecht Lecture)

March 26 - Dr. Robert Kennedy, University of Michigan

April 2 - Dr. Ying Wang - University of North Carolina - Wilmington

April 23 - Dr. Linda Hsieh-Wilson, CalTech (Burger Lecture)

Seminars are now being held virtually. Contact the Department of Chemistry for more information: (434) 924-3344; chem@virginia.edu.

CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

January 28 - Dr. Ku-Lung Hsu, University of Virginia

February 18 - Dr. Michael von Domaros, University of California at Irvine

March 4 - Dr. Carlos Casteneda, Syracuse University

March 18 - Dr. Christy Landes, Rice University

April 8 - Dr. Barry Trost, Stanford University

April 13 - Dr. Frances Ligler, NCSU/UNC Chapel Hill, “Lighting Up Biosensors” (Mary Kapp Lecture)

April 15 - Dr. Staria Glover, Upsala University, Sweden

April 22 - Dr. Xiaojiang Xie, Southern University of Science and Technology, China

Seminars are now being held at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Contact the Department of Chemistry for more information: (804) 828-1298; chemistry@vcu.edu
CIVICA TO BUILD NEW FACILITY IN PETERSBURG

Civica Rx has announced plans to construct an essential medicines manufacturing facility in Petersburg. The new facility, part of a partnership with Virginia-based Phlow Corporation, will help ensure a safe, stable, and affordable supply of essential generic medicines for U.S. patients. Civica will produce sterile injectable medications used in hospitals for COVID-19 patient care, emergency room and intensive-care unit treatments, surgeries, and to treat other serious conditions.

The 120,000 square-foot sterile injectable manufacturing facility will be constructed in Petersburg, Virginia, potentially creating more than 180 jobs. The new plant represents a $124.5 million investment. It will be built next to the AMPAC Fine Chemicals plant on Normandy Drive in Petersburg. AMPAC occupies the facilities formerly owned by Boehringer Ingelheim.

Civica is a key collaborator in the U.S. government-funded partnership with Phlow Corp, the Medicines for All Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University and AMPAC Fine Chemicals, which is also located in Petersburg. Through this partnership, Phlow executed a $354 million contract with the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to manufacture essential medications from beginning to end, including starting raw ingredients, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and finished dosage forms. Civica's role is to produce finished dosage medications in vials and syringes for patient care in Civica member hospitals and for the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile.

On February 28, 2020, Dr. B. Frank Gupton, Chair of the Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University, discussed the Medicines for All project at a Virginia Section meeting. In the Powell Lectureship, held at the University of Richmond, Dr. Gupton described his vision for new ways to provide resources that will lower the cost of pharmaceutical products and deliver and improve global public health.

Civica Rx is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization established in 2018 by health systems (CommonSpirit Health, HCA Healthcare, Intermountain Healthcare, Mayo Clinic, Providence St. Joseph Health, SSM Health, and Trinity Health) and philanthropies (Gary and Mary West Foundation, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, and Peterson Center on Healthcare) to reduce chronic generic drug shortages and related price spikes in the United States. The goal of Civica is to ensure that patients and their needs come first and that essential generic medications are accessible and affordable.

Phlow Corporation is a public benefit pharmaceutical manufacturing company dedicated to providing high-quality, low-cost pharmaceuticals through state-of-the-art, U.S. based advanced manufacturing processes. The company manufactures precursor chemical ingredients, active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), and finished pharmaceutical products, domestically, for essential medicines critical to the nation’s healthcare.