



The Bulletin
of the
Virginia Section
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

APRIL MEETING NOTICE

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Friday, April 18, 2008

POSTER SESSION: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
(*STUDENT RESEARCH*) Lobby
Chemistry Building

DINNER: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Lobby
Chemistry Building

PROGRAM: 7:00 p.m.
Room 304
Chemistry Building

MENU: Pizza (many varieties), Soft Drinks

DINNER RESERVATIONS: Please make reservations by calling Cindy Knight at (434) 924-7995 or e-mail [csk3a @ virginia.edu](mailto:csk3a@virginia.edu) by **NOON** on Wednesday, April 16.

PRICE: \$7.00 - members, guests, college students; \$4.00 - high school students, high school teachers, retired members/spouses, retired teachers/ spouses

HOST: Dr. James Demas - (434) 924-3343, [demas @ virginia.edu](mailto:demas@virginia.edu)

SPEAKER: **Dr. Richard N. Day, University of Virginia**

TOPIC: ***“Fluorescent Proteins from Marine Invertebrates—New Tools for Studying Protein Dynamics in Living Cells”***

APRIL 2008

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			<i>reservations</i>		<i>meeting</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DR. RICHARD N. DAY

Dr. Richard Day joined the faculty at the University of Virginia in 1990. He is an associate professor in the departments of Medicine and Cell Biology. Dr. Day's research interests are focused on understanding the network of regulatory protein interactions that function to control cell-type specific gene expression. The broad objective is to determine how transcription factors function to coordinate the activities of multiprotein complexes at specific gene enhancers and promoters. His laboratory uses biochemical and molecular approaches to define the network of protein interactions that are coordinated by specific transcription factors. These *in vitro* approaches are then complemented by non-invasive live-cell imaging techniques. Fluorescence microscopy is used to visualize the intranuclear distribution and behaviors of proteins that are labeled with different color variants of the marine invertebrate fluorescent proteins. His recent studies using these combined experimental approaches have begun to define how specific gene regulatory complexes are assembled in the intact cell nucleus, and have shown how certain disease-causing point mutations can affect these protein interactions. Dr. Day is an internationally recognized expert in live-cell imaging, and has published many papers and book chapters on this topic. He has taught in Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory live-cell imaging courses since 1998, and is the co-organizer of the annual Workshop on FRET microscopy at the University of Virginia.



Fluorescent Proteins from Marine Invertebrates— New Tools for Studying Protein Dynamics in Living Cells

Over the past decade, we have witnessed remarkable advances in the application of light microscopy to visualize dynamic processes inside the living cell. The development of new fluorescent probes, coupled with advances in digital image acquisition and analysis, has dramatically improved our ability to obtain dynamic measurements of protein behavior. For example, biologists now have the enormous benefit of using gene-transfer approaches to label proteins inside the living cell with the jellyfish green fluorescent protein (GFP). The recent engineering of GFP, as well as the discovery of new fluorescent proteins (FPs) from marine invertebrates are yielding an assortment of fluorescent proteins that emit from the blue to the red range of the visible spectrum. The characteristics of these important new tools for live-cell imaging will be discussed. The FPs are now widely used as noninvasive markers in living cells because their fluorescence does not require the addition of cofactors. The FP-labeled proteins produced in cells are often indistinguishable from their endogenous counterparts, making them most useful for monitoring the subcellular localization and trafficking properties of proteins. Approaches to measure dynamic protein behavior in living cells will be considered, along with some of the new generation of FPs with useful optical marking characteristics that allow them to be switched between non-fluorescent and fluorescent states. The application of the FPs has transformed studies in cell biology by allowing the behavior of proteins to be tracked by fluorescence microscopy in their natural environment. The development of these novel probes and associated imaging approaches will continue to provide unique insights into the biology of living systems.

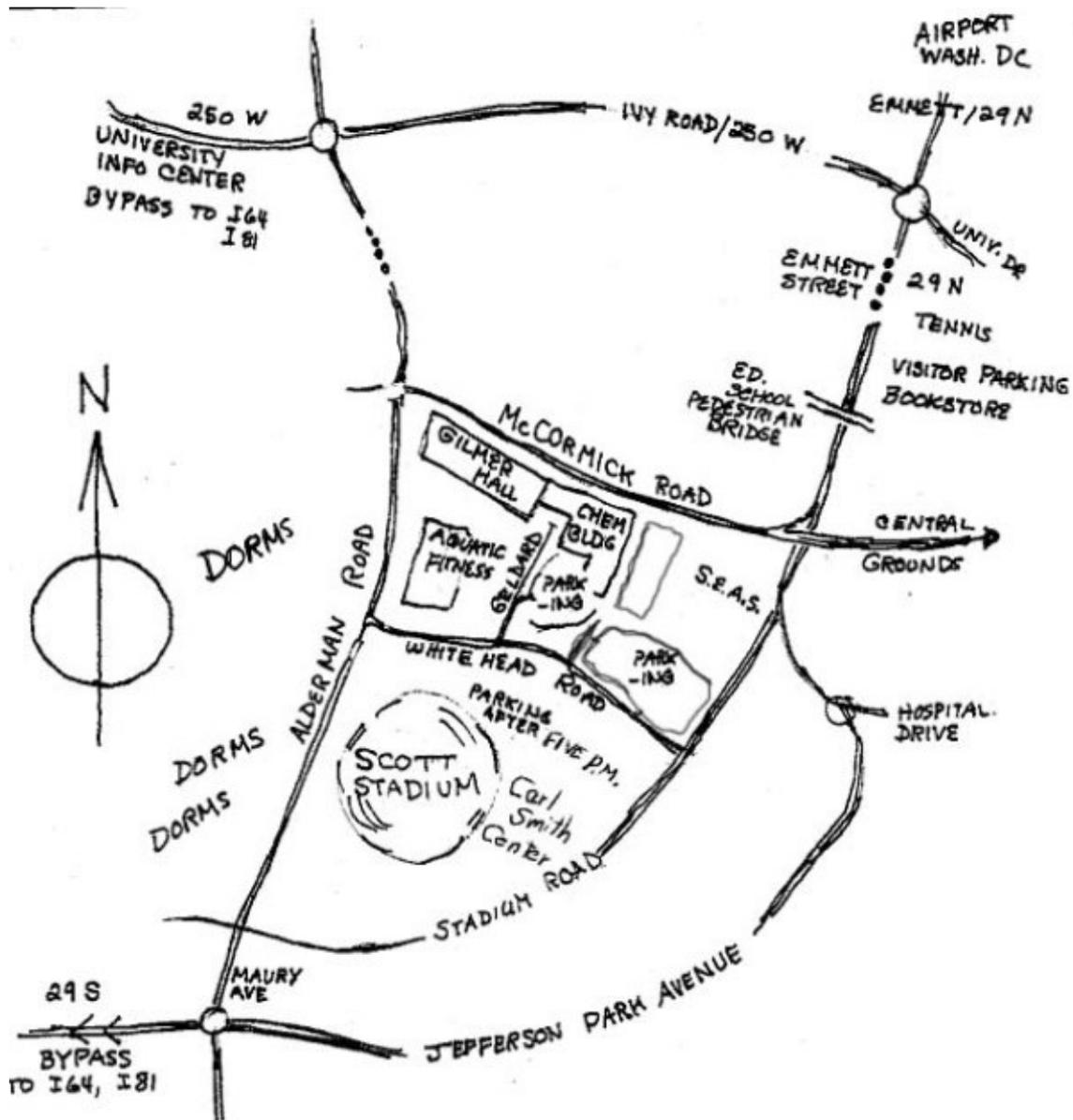
DIRECTIONS

From 29N. Come straight into town past the Cavalier Best Western (on your right), pass under two overhead bridges, and then bear right immediately afterwards. Turn right at the top of the hill at Whitehead Road. Turn right at Geldard Lane, which leads to Chemistry Department parking.

From I-64. Turn north on 29 at Exit 118. Immediately turn right at the Charlottesville/29 Business off ramp. Turn right to go into town, then turn left at the second light. Turn right immediately after the stadium on Whitehead Road. This brings you to the back or new wing of the chemistry building.

If you miss the first off ramp after I-64, turn right at the next exit (UVA information), proceed into town, turn right at the second light (Alderman Rd.), go through the first light, then make a left at Whitehead Road. Turn left into the parking lot by the new chemistry wing.

Until 5:00 p.m., all parking around the Chemistry Building is restricted and you will be ticketed. This applies to both the chemistry lot and the surrounding lots. Please time your arrival so that you park after 5:00. Note also that after 5:00 p.m. the Chemistry Building is locked except for the lobby entrances on McCormick Road. You will need to walk up the semi-concealed stairs at the upper end of Geldard; signs will be posted at 5 p.m. on the meeting day. Alternatively, you can go around the new Nanotech building on the east side.



COME EARLY ON APRIL 18 TO SEE THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTERS

*** Virginia SECTION news ***

FUTURE MEETINGS

VIRGINIA SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, May 9 - 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Richmond Campus, Room 662
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING

May 21-23
Hampton University
Hampton, Virginia

The 86th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science will be held at Hampton University in Hampton on May 21-23, 2008. Persons interested in the Chemistry Section program should contact Dr. Thomas C. DeVore, Chemistry Department, MSC 4501, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807; (540) 568-6672; devoretc @ jmu.edu. More information on the VAS meeting can be found at <http://www.vacadsci.org/meetings.htm>.

POSTER SESSION

The Virginia Section will hold its annual poster session at the April 18 meeting at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The emphasis is on student research, especially work done by undergraduates. This is an excellent informal, low-stress environment for students to make research presentations. If you have a student who wishes to present a poster, please contact Dr. James Demas at (434) 924-3343, immediately. He can also be reached via e-mail: demas @ virginia.edu. More information can be found on this website:

<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jnd/ACS2008.htm>. We invite everyone to come early for the UVA meeting and to support these young researchers. Outstanding college and university chemistry majors will also be recognized at this meeting.

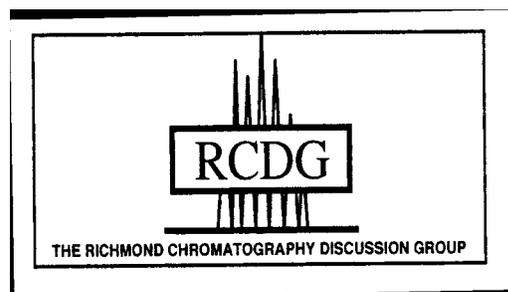
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The second Executive Committee Meeting of the year will be held at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Downtown campus, Richmond, at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9. Officers and committee chairpersons should prepare sufficient copies of their reports to bring or send to the meeting. Persons interested in joining the Executive Committee or persons who have items for discussion at the meeting should contact Mr. Charles E. (Trey) Gregory III, Virginia Section Chair - (804) 504-8840; [trey.gregory @ boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:trey.gregory@boehringer-ingelheim.com).

RICHMOND CHROMATOGRAPHY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Richmond Chromatography Discussion Group (RCDG) has scheduled this meeting:

April 15 - Joseph V. Strukl, David F. Ingraham Scholarship Recipient, "*cis*-Platinum Mononucleobase Compounds: Reaction Profile Studies Involving Protein, DNA, and Zinc Finger Models, and Implications for Possible Antiviral Activity" - VCU University Student Commons, Richmond Salon II, 5:30 p.m.



In **June**, RCDG will be presenting a one-day seminar on **SPE/SPME** at the PMUSA Center for Research and Technology (CRT) in Richmond. Their website will provide more information: <http://rcdg.org>. RCDG promotes the interests of chromatographic and other separation sciences through meetings, workshops, a newsletter, and a website. For more information and a schedule of seminars, check the website, <http://rcdg.org>, or contact Carol Sheets at [sheetsc @ wyeth.com](mailto:sheetsc@wyeth.com); (804) 257-2453.

AWARDS TO COLLEGE SENIORS

Outstanding senior chemistry majors from colleges and universities in the Virginia Section will be honored at the April 18 Section meeting in Charlottesville. Each school has been asked to select a student to receive the Virginia Section award for undergraduate achievement. The awardees will be the guests of the Section at the meeting on April 18 and will receive a free membership in the ACS and a certificate of recognition. Chemistry departments must inform Chair Trey Gregory of their nominees and an ACS membership application form must be completed by each nominee. If you have not submitted the name of your outstanding senior chemistry student, please contact Mr. Charles E. Gregory III at (804) 504-8840 or [trey.gregory @ boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:trey.gregory@boehringer-ingelheim.com).

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

The Virginia Section is soliciting nominations for these awards: Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher Award, Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher Award, Outstanding Industrial Innovator Award. Names of candidates should be forwarded to Yezdi Pithawalla or Sheryl Baldwin, Chairs of the Awards Committee: Sheryl Baldwin, (804) 353-5805, [sdbaldwin @ earthlink.net](mailto:sdbaldwin@earthlink.net); Yezdi Pithawalla, (804) 274-4587, [yezdi.b.pithawalla @ pmusa.com](mailto:yezdi.b.pithawalla@pmusa.com).

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

a program of the American Chemical Society (ACS)

April 26, 2008

Theme: "Streaming Chemistry"

Volunteers are needed to help with the Virginia Section's annual **Chemists Celebrate Earth Day** which will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday April 26, 2008 at the Science Museum of Virginia. The Virginia Section will be partnering with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in presenting activities for all ages. There will be many hands-on activities and information stations on topics such as recycling, landfills, oil spills, water pollution, waste management, erosion, and fisheries management.



Activities will include making a water filtering system, learning about chromatography as a separation technique, observing how to clean up oil spills, viewing biodegradable materials versus non-biodegradable items in landfills, digging for dinosaurs, making fossils, panning for gold, gemstones, and shark teeth, learning about geology and the types of rocks that make up the earth, learning about the weather cycle and cloud formation, making volcanoes, and environmentally-friendly paint-making. A special guest will be at the SMV to help children learn about climate. The Virginia Gem and Mineral Society will be there, so bring your favorite rock to be identified! The Mid-Atlantic Unit of the American Automobile Association (AAA) will have music and be checking tire pressures for free. There will be a car/boat battery drop-off outside the Museum.



Help is needed. Club affiliate groups and high school students who would like to volunteer are encouraged to be part of this exciting day!! For more information, please contact Dr. Kristine Smetana at (804) 706-5143 or by email: ksmetana@jtcc.edu More information on CCED (Chemists Celebrate Earth Day) can be found on the ACS website: www.acs.org/earthday.

EARTH DAY ILLUSTRATED HAIKU CONTEST

Students are asked to write and illustrate a haiku using the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day theme, "Streaming Chemistry". Detailed rules and guidelines are available on the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day website, www.acs.org/earthday.

Categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 (groupings changed from last year)

A haiku is a three-line poem with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. Haikus typically have nature-related themes and do not rhyme.

Please submit any Haiku entries by **Tuesday April 1** to: Dr. Kristine Smetana, JTCC, Chemistry Department M-129, CCED Coordinator, 13101 Jefferson Davis Highway, Chester, VA 23831

CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Apr. 4 - Professor Alan Van Orden, Colorado State University, "Fluorescence Fluctuation Spectroscopy and Scanning Probe Microscopy for Probing the Dynamic Properties of Biomolecules and Nanoparticles"

Apr. 18 - Professor Ben Cravatt, The Scripps Research Institute, "Mapping Biochemical Pathways in Human Disease by Activity-Based Proteomics and Metabolomics"

Apr. 25 - Professor David Crich, University of Illinois at Chicago

Seminars are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in Room 304 of the Chemistry Building. The complete colloquium schedule can be found at <http://www.virginia.edu/chem/newsandevents/seminars/>.

JUDGES FOR THE VIRGINIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Judges and meeting chairs are needed for the annual meeting of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS), to be held at Hampton University in Hampton, May 20-22, 2008. About 750 students from grades seven through twelve will present papers and report on original research work. If you would like to contribute to this celebration of science by young persons, please contact Susan Booth, VAS Director, at susanscience@msc.com or (757) 874-3349. Judges are needed in Agriculture & Animal Science, Animal Behavior, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Consumer Science, Design Technology, Earth & Space Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Genetics & Cellular Biology, Mathematics, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physical Science, Physics, Psychology, Statistics, and Zoology.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST

This question was asked in the March Bulletin: A large group attended a Section meeting held on May 14 at the Petersburg Country Club. Dr. Nathan L. Drake of the University of Maryland, spoke on "Adsorption as a Tool in Organic Chemistry." Dinner at that meeting cost \$1.00. **In what year did this meeting occur: 1937, 1952, or 1966? The meeting was held in June, 1937.** The account of the meeting, published in the June issue of the Virginia Section Bulletin, noted that it was "one of the largest dinner gatherings in quite some time" and that "The large crowd was more remarkable in view of the fact that the atmosphere was ultra saturated with water."

A new question from the past: For the past 20 years, the April meeting of the Virginia Section has been held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. In 1987, the April meeting featured Sister Mary E. Murphy, who spoke on "The Moon and Beyond." **Where was that April 24, 1987 meeting held?**

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR APRIL: **"A Man's Health Can Be Judged By Which He Takes Two At A Time— Pills Or Stairs"**

EARTH DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT CONTEST

The 2008 Community Event for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day is "Adopt-A-Stream". In an "Adopt-A-Stream" program, groups register with the "environmental protection" office of their state or local government to clean-up and keep clean a section of a stream or aquifer. In addition to clean-up efforts, volunteers may be asked to monitor water quality and/or pollution sources. Responsibilities vary slightly from one municipality to the next. Provide water quality information at your event and document it with a photograph that you will submit to ACS!

Undergraduate students are invited to participate in the community service outreach event and compete for the best event. Guidelines are available online at www.acs.org/earthday. Cash prizes for the top two entries!

Contest entries are due by **May 15th, 2008**.

If anyone would like more information on this or other Earth Day programs, please contact Kristine Smetana @ (804)706-5143 or by email: ksmetana@jtcc.edu. The ACS website includes general information on Earth Day, the Adopt-A-Stream event, the Illustrated Haiku Contest, and a special issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education*: www.acs.org/earthday.

VIRGINIA SECTION WEBSITE

For full information on Section activities, including meetings, don't forget to check out the Virginia Section website, located at: <http://membership.acs.org/V/VA/>. Thanks to Ann Sullivan for maintaining the site. Anne can be contacted at asullivan@reynolds.edu.

"LEGALLY SWEET"

Two articles by Dr. Roald Hoffmann, the speaker at the W. Allan Powell Lectureship on February 8 at the University of Richmond, can be found in recent issues of *American Scientist*. The article "Legally Sweet" appeared in the July-August, 2007 issue. Dr. Hoffmann discusses court cases involving the artificial sweeteners sucralose (Splenda) and aspartame (NutraSweet). The March-April, 2008 issue has an article entitled "For a Few Atoms More." In this article, Dr. Hoffmann discusses drug testing, natural and "designer" steroids, and sports. The articles can be accessed on the *American Scientist* website: www.americanscientist.org. Dr. Roald Hoffmann is Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters at Cornell University.



SEMINARS AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Apr. 3 - Professor Brian R. James, University of British Columbia

Apr. 10 - Professor Karl Scheidt, Northwestern University

The seminars are held at 3:30 p.m. in the Kapp Lecture Hall, Room 1024, in the Mary E. Kapp wing of Oliver Hall, 1001 West Main Street in Richmond. The public is invited. For more information, call (804) 828-1298.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Will Lewis, Chair of the Virginia Section in 2007, sent a report on Section activities to Governor Timothy Kaine. Dr. Lewis received this response from Thomas R. Morris, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia:

“Dear Dr. Lewis:

On behalf of Governor Timothy M. Kaine, I want to thank you for sharing the many activities and accomplishments of the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society.

We salute your involvement with school, community college, and university chemistry and scientific programs and appreciate your interest in helping to shape the future of young chemists.

On behalf of Governor Kaine, I am honored to offer my congratulations on a successful year and to extend my best wishes for 2008.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with Governor Kaine.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Morris
Secretary of Education”

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

The Chemical Education Committee of the Virginia Section has funded these five proposals to support science education:

- **Henry Clay Elementary School** (Hanover County) - A grant of \$500.00 to assist in the establishment of a science laboratory at the school. The lab will be used to provide hands-on experiences to young students.
- **Matoaca Middle School** (Chesterfield County) - A grant of \$462.85 for materials and equipment for conducting tests that enable students to classify elements as metals, nonmetals, or metalloids.
- **Broadway High School** (Rockingham County) - A grant of \$479.25 for purchasing materials to enhance students' biotechnology skills.
- **Berkeley Glenn and William Perry Elementary Schools** (Waynesboro) - A grant of \$449.50 to purchase microscopes and related materials for teaching gifted students in grades two through five.
- **Richmond County Elementary School** - A grant of \$475.00 to purchase teaching materials for science activities at the kindergarten level.

Dr. Ryan Warren, Chair of the Chemical Education Committee for the Virginia Section, administers the educational grants program. Grants of \$50 to \$500 are provided to elementary and secondary schools in the Section. An on-line application can be found at <http://membership.acs.org/VVA/grants.htm>

CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The University of Virginia Department of Chemistry is of medium size, combining outstanding physical facilities with a close-knit community of scholars. With a faculty size of 25, a graduate student body of about 120, and about 50 research associates, a stimulating atmosphere strongly encouraging interactive association has been created. Our 25 faculty members include professors who are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields. The list of recent honors received by faculty members includes the Distinguished Achievement Award in Proteomics from the Human Proteome Organization, the American Chemical Society's Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry; 1993 and 1998 Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards for excellence in both teaching and research; 1992 and 1996 Virginia Scientist of the Year awards, a 1994 Sloan Foundation Award, 1997 and 1999 Alexander von Humboldt Research Prizes, an Analytical Chemistry Award in Chemical Instrumentation, a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, a Coblentz Award, and a MacArthur Genius Award. Faculty research areas span a wide range offering a varied program of courses and research problems. Recent graduate student national fellowship awards include Kristy DeWitt, awarded the Cognis Corporation Research Fellowship in Colloid and Surface Chemistry, and Scott Capitosti, awarded the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Predoctoral Fellowship Award. A graduate student can expect to have considerable input in both the design of his or her own degree program as well as in matters pertaining to the operation of the Department as a whole.

The goal of graduate study in chemistry is to develop outstanding young scientists able to make significant contributions in their chosen fields. With this in mind, emphasis is placed on research that contributes to our fundamental body of knowledge. Also important is the exceptional opportunity to interact not only with fellow graduate students, research associates and faculty, but also with outstanding scientists from all parts of the country and world. This participation in the forefront of scientific discovery prepares the student for the role of independent contributor to the scientific community.

Teaching and research in the Department of Chemistry have been considerably strengthened in recent years by a number of interdisciplinary centers and programs including Molecular Biophysics, Structural Genomics, Chemical Physics, and Laser Interactions with Matter. These programs, along with ongoing research in analytical methods, synthetic inorganic and organic chemistry, spectroscopy and other areas of physical chemistry, provide the student with a choice of strong research areas over a broad range of the chemical sciences. The faculty attracts more than \$8.5 million yearly in outside funding to support these programs, an indicator of the vigor of research being carried out in the Department.



The graduate program is further supported by an extensive library system. The Barksdale Chemistry Library, established by private gifts, contains about 20,000 volumes on chemistry-related subjects. Up-to-date sets of the important chemical journals, books, and on-line databases are readily accessible. Graduate students are entitled to keys to the building and to the library for research and reading. Alderman Library has more than 1.6 million books as well as extensive collections of manuscripts, maps, prints, and microfilms. The Science and Engineering Library, the large library of the Medical School, and the Physics Library contain numerous additional books and journals in chemistry and allied fields.



GOALS FOR 2008

Trey Gregory, Chair of the Virginia Section, has formulated some goals for his tenure.

Local Section Goals:

- Act upon the ACS Vision: Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry
- Support ACS Programs and Initiatives
- Promote career development and professional interactions among members
- Continue to ensure efficient operation of the Section
- Volunteer

Chair's Goals:

- Increase communication and interaction with members of the Virginia Section including retired professionals, professionals in education and the industry, and our student affiliates. This will be done by continuing with the monthly meetings and introducing the Science Café to the Virginia Section. Become active in the Younger Chemists Committee
- Begin development/planning for the 2011 SERMACS Virginia Section meeting
- Recognize volunteers
-

ACS PUBLICATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

These publications are available through the ACS Office of K-8 Science:

- *Inquiry in Action—Investigating Matter Through Inquiry*, Third Edition (a physical science activity guide for upper elementary- and middle school teachers)
- *The Best of WonderScience*, Volumes 1 and 2 (over 600 hands-on elementary science activities)
- *Sunlight, Skyscrapers, and Soda Pop* (hands-on science activities for young children)
- *Apples, Bubbles, and Crystals* (hands-on science activities for young children)

Examination copies of these publications will be available at the Section meeting on April 18, along with free copies of the ACS catalog of Science Teaching Resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE BULLETIN

The reproduction process used for the printed copies of the Virginia Section Bulletin does not produce high-quality photographs. If you would like to see better copies of the photographs in the Bulletin, please look at the copy on the Section's website: <http://membership.acs.org/VVA/>. Most of the photos on the website will be in full color and can be enlarged or copied.

2008 BUDGET FOR THE VIRGINIA SECTION

Receipts

ACS Allotment	\$ 12,000.00
Local Section Dues	2,500.00
ACS Councilor Rebates	5,500.00
Program Receipts	3,500.00
Interest and Dividends	2,250.00
New Member Commissions	50.00
Science Café	500.00
Transfer from Reserves	21,550.00
Total Receipts	\$ 47,850.00

Expenses

Administrative	\$ 1,000.00
Awards and Program Expenses	2,500.00
Chemical Technicians Committee	50.00
Chemistry Olympiad	2,500.00
Councilor Travel	8,500.00
Entertainment Committee	4,000.00
Minority Affairs Committee	50.00
Education Committee	6,500.00
Election Expenses	1,000.00
Gifts for Speakers	350.00
Membership Dues for Virginia Academy	100.00
National Chemistry Week/Earth Day	5,000.00
Officer Training	500.00
Publication Expenses	6,500.00
Science Café	500.00
SERMACS	2,000.00
Speakers for Section Meetings	1,200.00
Public Relations/Hospitality Committee	100.00
Younger Chemists Committee	500.00
Science Museum of Virginia (Grant)	5,000.00

METRO RICHMOND SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

The annual Metro Richmond Science Fair was held on Saturday, March 15. The chemistry winners were Amelia Earnest of Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County and Alexis Samloff of Deep Run High School in Henrico County. The \$100 First Place award went to Amelia Earnest for her project on "The Effect of Different Materials on the Strength of Recycled Paper." Alexis Samloff received \$50 for the Second-Place project on "The Effect of Length of Time and Storage Environment on the Amount of Vitamin C in Fruit." The Virginia Section provided the chemistry awards. Dr. Brian Moores and Dr. Joseph Pompano were among the Science Fair judges.

HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION - 1991

Dr. W. Allan Powell compiled a history of the Virginia Section that was published in 1996 as "The First Seventy-Five Years" (the Virginia Section received its charter from the American Chemical Society on April 9, 1915; Dr. Powell's account ended in 1990). We are beginning the process of updating the history. Listed below is a draft of a narrative account of the Section's activities in the year 1991. We would appreciate comments, corrections, and suggestions on this. Please communicate your thoughts to James Beck, (804) 733-5286; beckjd1977 @ comcast.net.

1991:

Chair - Joseph M. Crockett
Chair Elect - Sheryl Baldwin
Vice Chair - Patrick G. Barber
Secretary - Philip P. Burks
Treasurer - Elizabeth M. Hairfield
Councilors - Oscar R. Rodig, Preston H. Leake, R. Gerald Bass
Trustees - William R. Smithey, James E. York, J. Samuel Gillespie, Jr.

The Virginia Section held seven regular meetings during 1991:

- January 18 - Randolph-Macon College, Ashland. George Spagna, "Science and Religion: the Elephant Is Clearly Like a Rope!"
- February 15 - University of Richmond, Richmond. Phillip Hylemon, "Molecular Biology of Cholesterol and Bile Acid Metabolism"
- February 15 - University of Richmond, Richmond. Koji Nakanishi, "Why 11-Cis Retinol for Vision?" (W. Allan Powell Lectureship)
- March 15 - College of William & Mary, Williamsburg. Nathan Stolow, "Art Preservation and Its Interface with Science and Technology"
- April 19 - University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Jeffrey Seeman, "Thousands of Years of Organic Chemistry: The Human Side"
- September 27 - Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. James Beck, "Some Personal Reflections on Chemistry Education and the Virginia Section"
- November 1 - Mary Baldwin College, Staunton. Ralph Allen, "Uncovering the Secrets of the Nile (Cracked Pot Chemists Look at the Past)"
- December 13 - University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Carl Trindle, "Chemistry in Fiction: Electron Affinities to Gravity's Rainbow"

A Vendor's Show was held in conjunction with the September meeting. In November, there was a meeting of student affiliate members at Mary Washington College. The April meeting included a poster session that featured student research. The Section adopted a new policy that allowed high school chemistry teachers to pay half-price for the dinners at Section meetings.

For the Virginia Section, the highlight of 1991 was the 43rd Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting (SERMACS-91), hosted by the Virginia Section and held in Richmond, November 12-15, 1991. This was the first Southeastern Regional meeting hosted by the Virginia Section since 1969. The theme of SERMACS-91 was "Chemistry in the South for the 21st Century." The meeting attracted 1349 registrants. A total of 492 papers were presented, there were 21 symposia and four workshops. There was a poster session, a reception at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, an Employment Clearinghouse, and a Chemical Exposition that featured 56 booths. R. Gerald Bass of

Virginia Commonwealth University and William F. Kuhn of Philip Morris USA served as General Co-Chairs. The Steering Committee included James Beck, Alan Goldsmith, Beverly Lockwood, Robert Meisinger, Brian Moores, Murray Rosenberg, Sarah Rutan, Vinny Sastri, Serge Schreiner, Albert Sneden, C. Roy Taylor, Charles E. Thomas, and Lawrence J. Winters. SERMACS-91 Committee Chairs:

Honorary Chair - Kenneth S. Houghton

General Chairs - R. Gerald Bass, William F. Kuhn

Program Chair - Albert T. Sneden

Exhibits Chair - C. Roy Taylor

Registration Chair - Sarah C. Rutan

Finance Chair and Treasurer - Robert H. Meisinger

Publications/Publicity Chairs - Murray D. Rosenberg, James D. Beck

Hospitality Chairs - Serge Schreiner, Linda Schreiner

Special Events Chairs - Vinny Sastri, Beverly A. Lockwood

Audio-Visual Chair - Lawrence J. Winters

Local Arrangements Chair - Charles E. Thomas

Student Volunteers Chairs - Joseph Topich, Emma Goldman

Financial support for SERMACS-91 was provided by the American Tobacco Company, Burroughs Wellcome Company, Ethyl Corporation, Glaxo Research Laboratories, and Philip Morris U.S.A.

The Virginia Section continued its longstanding practice of presenting awards to deserving individuals. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to James D. Beck. Larry H. White of Harrisonburg High School received the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding High School Chemistry Teaching. The Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Middle School Science Teaching was given to Carole Baughan Forkey of Goochland Middle School. This was the second year that the Section gave an award to a middle school teacher. Twelve senior chemistry majors from colleges and universities within the Section were honored; each received a one-year membership in the American Chemical Society. The Section recognized thirteen fifty-year members of the ACS.

The Section participated in the Chemistry Olympiad. A total of 174 students took the local examination, given at Mary Baldwin College, Shenandoah College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. John Comerford coordinated the Olympiad. In November, Stuart Monroe organized activities to celebrate National Chemistry Week. Nearly 2000 copies of the ACS tabloid, "Chemistry All Around Us," were distributed. Bill Wingfield did a series of "show-and-tell" sessions at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond. The Section donated subscriptions to the ACS publications *ChemUnity*, *ChemEcology*, and *ChemMatters* to over one hundred high schools. The Section was represented at the Engineering/Science Career Day held on February 17 at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Murray D. Rosenberg stepped down after completing a very successful year and a half as Editor of the Virginia Section Bulletin. Seven issues were published in 1991. Each issue included 10-12 advertisements. Nancy Jenkins served as Business Manager for the Bulletin. In December, James Beck assumed the position of Editor and Eddie Thomas became the Publisher.

The Virginia Section was presented an ACS Outstanding Section Award for its 1990 program and activities. This was due in large part to the efforts of Past-Chair Charles E. (Eddie) Thomas who provided outstanding leadership for the Section. He prepared a comprehensive report describing the accomplishments of the Virginia Section during his tenure as Chair.

JAMES A. FITZGERALD

Dr. James Allen Fitzgerald, a chemist who was a member of the team that developed the fiber Kevlar, died on February 19, 2008, at the age of 66. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Rochester and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Carnegie Institute of Technology. In 1966 he joined the DuPont Company. After the development of Kevlar, he helped to set up a pilot plant in Waynesboro and later worked in Kevlar production in Richmond, Delaware, and Tennessee. He was involved in many cases of Kevlar copyright infringement and became a registered U.S. patent agent in 1990. After he left DuPont in 1993, he entered the pharmacy school at the Medical College of Virginia and became its oldest-ever graduate. He practiced pharmacy in local hospitals until retiring in 2006.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING

The Southeastern Region of the American Chemical Society is soliciting nominations for the ACS Division of Chemical Education Southeastern Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching. The award consists of a \$1,000 check and a *Salutes to Excellence* plaque. These will be presented at the 2008 SERMACS Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in November, 2008. All nomination and supporting materials for the 2008 Award must be received by June 1, 2008. If you would like to nominate a chemistry teacher for this award, contact Dr. William Rademaker at (804) 794-3752; wrad @ verizon.net.

E-MAIL NOTICES OF SECTION MEETINGS

If your Bulletin does not always arrive in a timely fashion or if you simply would like to be reminded of Section meetings, you may wish to take advantage of our meeting notification service. Just send us your e-mail address and we will send you, via e-mail, a brief reminder of the upcoming meeting. We'll try to get the notice to you about a week before the meeting date so you'll have time to make a dinner reservation if you decide to attend the meeting. Send your e-mail address to James Beck at beckjd1977 @ comcast.net.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE PERSONS?

The photograph is from April, 2003. One of the persons was born and raised in upstate New York, earned a B.S. in chemistry from Marist College, and M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry from SUNY Stony Brook. At the time the photo was taken he was on the faculty at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. The other individual holds a Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry from the University of New Mexico. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Section for many years and received the Section's Distinguished Service Award in 1999. His hobbies include photography, computers, skiing, hiking, karate, and the movies.



The "mystery persons" in the March issue were Bill Kuhn (left) and Jim Quagliano (right).

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Chair - Mr. Charles (Trey) Gregory (804) 504-8840

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Bulletin Publisher - Dr. Will Lewis (804) 274-5869