



*The Bulletin*  
of the  
Virginia Section  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

**DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE**

**VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY**

**Richmond, Virginia**

**Friday, December 2, 2011**

**SOCIAL HOUR:**           **6:00 p.m.**  
Panther Grill  
Henderson Center  
1500 N. Lombardy St.

**DINNER:**               **6:30 p.m.**  
Panther Grill

**PROGRAM:**             **7:15 p.m.**  
Theater, Belgian Friendship Building

**MENU:**                 Grilled Chicken Breast, Roast Beef with Gravy, Steamed Herb Potatoes,  
California Blend, Garden Salad with Italian and Ranch Dressings,  
Cornbread/Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Beverages

**PRICE:**                 Members/Guests - \$18.00  
Students, High School Teachers/Spouses - \$9.00  
Retired ACS Members/Spouses, Retired Teachers/ Spouses - \$13.00

**DINNER RESERVATIONS:**   Please make reservations for the dinner by **NOON on Tuesday**  
**November 29** by calling (804) 257-5615 or e-mail to [dneseonu@vuu.edu](mailto:dneseonu@vuu.edu)

**HOST:**                 Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, (804) 257-5615; [dneseonu@vuu.edu](mailto:dneseonu@vuu.edu)

**SPEAKER:**           **Dr. Randy L. Bell, University of Virginia**

**TOPIC:**                **“Theories, Laws, and Other Dangerous Ideas”**

**TEACHER AWARDS:** **HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY - Ms. Meg Van Liew**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE - Ms. Denise Oppenhagen**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE - Ms. Jessica Skeens**

**DECEMBER 2011**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	<b>29</b>	30	1	<b>2</b>	3
		<i>RESERVATIONS</i>			<i>MEETING</i>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## **Dr. Randy L. Bell**

Dr. Randy Bell is an Associate Professor of Science Education in the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. Randy holds a BS in botany and an MS in Forest Ecology. He received his doctorate degree in science education after teaching middle and high school science for six years in a rural community in eastern Oregon.

Randy's research agenda at the University of Virginia focuses on two primary areas: (a) teaching and learning about the nature of science and (b) using digital technologies to facilitate effective science instruction and conceptual change. Randy has maintained strong ties to the classroom through a variety of collaborative professional development projects. Most recently, he is serving as co-PI on a 28 million-dollar US Department of Education-funded I3 project designed to provide research-based professional development for Virginia's elementary and secondary science teachers. Randy is currently serving as president for The Association for Science Teacher Education and has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* and *School Science and Mathematics*. The author of more than 100 articles, chapters and books, he currently is co-authoring a series of elementary science textbooks for National Geographic.



### **“Theories, Laws, and Other Dangerous Ideas”**

Few would argue that scientific theories and laws are among the most powerful ideas in science. Indeed, accurate conceptions of scientific theories and laws are considered essential components of science literacy. Yet, research shows that it is rare for either students or teachers to have adequate understandings of these important concepts. In fact, most adults possess deep-rooted misconceptions about theories and laws and the roles they play in science. Dr. Bell's presentation will address these misconceptions, their source and implications, as well as instructional approaches designed to facilitate more appropriate understandings.

## **DISTINGUISHED HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER AWARD**

### **Ms. Meg Van Liew**



Meg Van Liew lives in Charlottesville with her husband John and her two girls, Evans (13) and Ally (9). She loves to read, go to the gym, and do puzzles. She comes from a long line of teachers—her father was a chemistry professor at VMI for over 30 years, her uncle teaches a high school philosophy course, and her grandfather was a headmaster for over 20 years. Clearly, teaching is in her blood! She has been teaching chemistry at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville for 17 years and still loves going to work. There are several reasons she loves to teach: (1) it is one of the few jobs where you essentially get a "do-over" every year with a new set of student; (2) almost every day she figures out some new way to explain a concept that she thought that she had completely mastered; and (3) she get to hang out with teenagers all day long!

# DISTINGUISHED MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD

## *Ms. Denise Oppenhagen*

Denise Oppenhagen is a Navy brat, born at the Great Lakes Naval Base, one of three daughters. She has BA and MA degrees from Texas A&M University in Political Science along with AAS and BSN degrees in Nursing, and has taken a number of classes in Chemistry and Physics. She has taught only at Rippon Middle School in Prince William County where she loves the school and the kids. She had two dreams growing up. One of them has been reached by teaching at Rippon. Her mom is a retired Registered Nurse. Her parents were the first generation born in the United States. She is one of 11 children, and of those 11, most are teachers and have married teachers. She loves to read and received a grant last year for a class set of the *Disappearing Spoon* that she is incorporating into her classes. Aside from reading, she referees volleyball and loves to quilt.



# DISTINGUISHED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD

## *Ms. Jessica Skeens*



Jessica Skeens is currently a fifth grade teacher at Wenonah Elementary School in Waynesboro, Virginia. She taught Special Education at the high school and elementary level before teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This is her seventh year teaching at Wenonah Elementary (3 years in 4<sup>th</sup> and this is her 4<sup>th</sup> year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade). She grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia and graduated from Chancellor High School. She received an Economics degree from the University of Virginia (BA '99) and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Mary Washington College (MEd. '04). Her teaching philosophy is to make learning meaningful, exciting, and creative for each student by putting the learning in his or her hands.

The students in her classroom work in collaborative teams and use 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills daily as they engage with the content. She teaches in a 1 to 1 laptop classroom, where the majority of the instruction is project-based using technology. In science (which is her favorite subject to teach), her students explore, question, and engage with the natural environment through hands-on investigation activities, field trips (on and off school property), and learning modules on the computer (i.e. *Gizmos*). She lives in Fishersville, Virginia with her husband Jason and her two sons, Rien and Aiden. She enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her family.

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## DIRECTIONS

**From the North via I-95:** Take Exit #76B for Belvidere Street. Turn right off Exit ramp to Leigh Street. Drive to 3rd stoplight and turn right onto Lombardy Street. Travel on Lombardy Street to the main campus (1/4 mile). Parking is available across from main campus in the Student Parking Lot.

**From the South via I-95:** Take Exit #76A. Turn right off Exit ramp onto Chamberlayne Avenue. When the road splits, bear left and go under the underpass to the second stoplight, which will be Lombardy Street. Make a left and the parking lot for visitors is next to the football field.

**From the East via I-64:** Take Exit #190 for Fifth Street and Downtown/Coliseum. Turn right at Broad Street. Follow Broad Street to Lombardy Street, approximately two miles. (Firestone, Amoco). Turn right onto Lombardy Street and follow to the main campus, approximately .2 mile. Parking is available across from main campus in the Student Parking Lot.

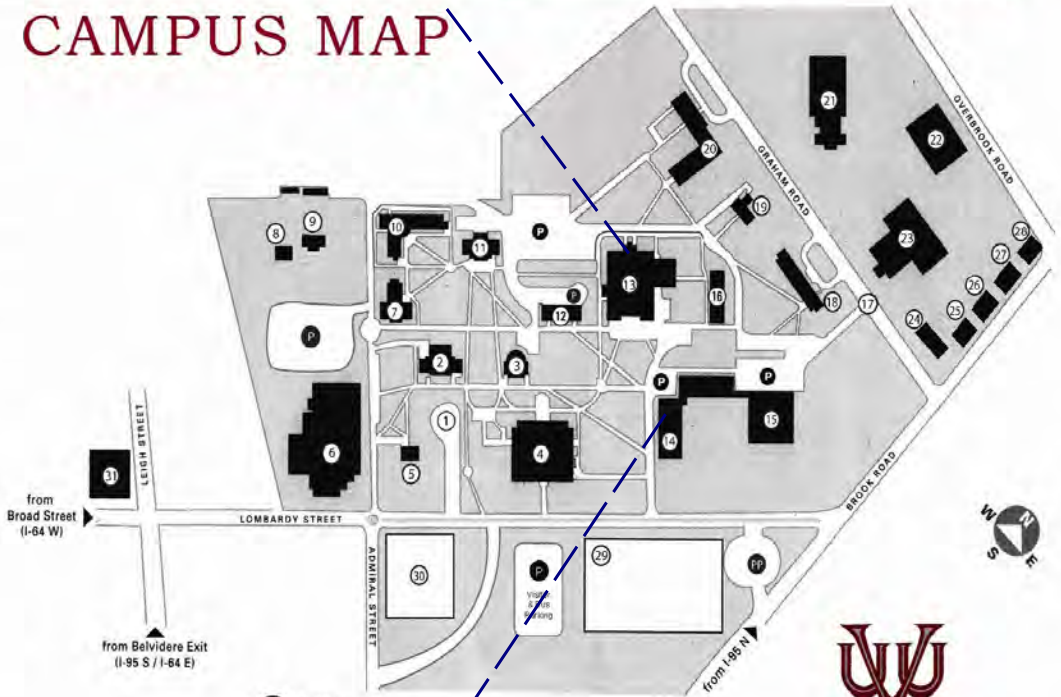
**From the West via I-64:** Take exit for I-95 South and I-64 East. Take Exit #76B for Belvidere Street. Turn right off Exit #76B ramp to Leigh Street. Travel to third stoplight and turn right to Lombardy Street. Travel on Lombardy to main campus. Parking is available in Student Parking Lot across from the main campus.

### HENDERSON CENTER

## Virginia Union University

### CAMPUS MAP

1. Pickford Circle
2. Pickford Hall  
President's Office  
Campus Police  
Academic Affairs
3. Coburn Hall
4. Ellison Hall  
Financial Aid  
Registrar
5. Baptist Memorial Building
6. L. Douglas Wilder Library
7. Kingsley Hall  
School of Theology
8. Power Plant
9. Maintenance Building
10. Storer Hall
11. Martin E. Gray Hall
12. Huntley Hall
13. Henderson Center  
Admissions Office  
Student Affairs Office
14. Belgian Friendship Building
15. Baroo-Stevens Hall
16. Hartshorn Hall
17. Main Entrance
18. Newman Hall
19. White Hall /Athletics
20. MacVicar Hall
21. Baptist General Convention of VA
22. Community Annex
23. Richmond Police Training Academy
24. University House #1
25. University House #2
26. University House #3
27. University House #4
28. University House #5
29. Hovey Field
30. Practice Field
31. C. D. King Hall  
Human Resources  
Institutional Advancement  
Student Accounts  
University Relations



- P Parking
- PP President's Parking

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### BELGIAN FRIENDSHIP BUILDING



**\*\*\* VIRGINIA SECTION NEWS \*\*\*****FUTURE MEETINGS**

DATE: **January 13, 2012**  
LOCATION: Randolph-Macon College  
Ashland, VA  
HOST: Dr. April Marchetti  
PHONE: (804) 752-7319  
E-MAIL: amarchet@rmc.edu  
SPEAKER: **Dr. William Carroll**  
TOPIC: "Where Everything Comes From:  
Industrial Chemistry 101"

DATE: **February 17, 2012**  
LOCATION: Virginia State University  
Petersburg, VA  
HOST: Dr. Colleen Taylor  
PHONE: (804) 524-5481  
E-MAIL: cmtaylor@vsu.edu  
SPEAKER: **Dr. Kelli Slunt**  
TOPIC: "The Chemistry Olympiad"

DATE: **March 16, 2012**  
LOCATION: University of Richmond  
Richmond, VA  
HOST: Dr. Lisa Gentile  
PHONE: (804) 458-1578  
E-MAIL: lgentile@richmond.edu  
SPEAKER: **Dr. Robert G. Griffin**  
**POWELL LECTURESHIP**

DATE: **April 20, 2012**  
LOCATION: University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA  
HOST: Dr. James Demas  
PHONE: (434) 924-3343  
E-MAIL: demas @ virginia.edu  
SPEAKER: **Dr. Anne Henriksen**

**VIRGINIA SECTION TEACHING AWARDS**

The Virginia Section will present its annual teaching awards at the December 2 meeting. The Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award has been presented annually since 1948 when Mr. Lawrence W. Jarman, Head of the Science Department at Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond, was the first recipient. In 1990, the Section added a Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher Award. The first award in that category was presented to Ms. Jeannie Bishop from Liberty Middle School in Hanover County. Last year, the Section presented its first Distinguished Elementary School Science Teacher Award to Ms. Judy Fitzpatrick, a fourth grade teacher at Short Pump Elementary School in Henrico County. The 2011 teaching awards are sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Chemicals.

This year's high school teacher award will be the first to be designated as the **Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award**. Frank Kizer was an active member of the Virginia Section for over 55 years and an outstanding advocate for science education. He was the first State Supervisor of Science for Virginia, retiring in 1979 after 23 years of service, and was a co-founder and the first president of the Council of State Science Supervisors. The Virginia Section presented him with the Distinguished High School Chemistry Teaching Award in 1955 and with the Distinguished Service Award in 1978. Frank died in March, 2010. The Virginia Section will honor his service to the ACS and to science education by presenting a Kizer teaching award each year.

## THE CHAIR'S CORNER



October was a great month for the Virginia Section. First, I want to thank Kristine Smetana and the other Virginia Section members and student volunteers for the National Chemistry Week (NCW) activities that were held at the Science Museum of Virginia on October 22. This fun outreach to children and the community is a very important activity for the Section, and I encourage more members to be involved next year, if only for a few hours.

Next, I want to congratulate and thank Joe Pompano, the General Chair of **SERMACS 2011**, for the very successful meeting held October 26-29. I do not have enough room in this article to thank everyone involved in SERMACS individually, but Joe and the entire steering committee worked hard on getting this meeting together and it showed. Overwhelmingly, the comments that I have received have been positive, enhancing the image of the Virginia Section.

Just as importantly, by hosting SERMACS, the Virginia Section has worked towards preserving our financial ability to continue our valuable programming. Over 40% of the Section's annual budget goes towards programs that benefit the wider community. These include community outreach (NCW and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day), educational programs (Chemistry Olympiad), science fair prizes, student awards, and grants to individual teachers and educational groups.

Related to this, the Section's annual teaching awards will be presented at the December meeting. This is a special event as it marks the first time that the renamed Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award will be presented. I hope to see you all there.

...Stephanie Mabry, Chair, ACS Virginia Section  
[Stephanie.Mabry@aftonchemical.com](mailto:Stephanie.Mabry@aftonchemical.com)

## 2012 ELECTION RESULTS

Yezdi Pithawalla, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has reported these results of the balloting for 2012 officer positions:

**Chair - Dr. Karen Carter**

**Vice Chair - Dr. Scott Gronert**

**Treasurer - Dr. Stephanie Mabry**

**Alternate Councilor - Dr. Sheryl Baldwin**

**Chair-Elect - Dr. Joseph Crockett**

**Secretary - Dr. Rob Davidson**

**Councilor - Dr. R. Gerald Bass**

**Trustee - Dr. James N. Demas**

## 2012 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The Virginia Section will host the 2012 Chemistry Olympiad for all high school chemistry teachers and students who are interested in participating. The Local Section competition will be held in March, 2012. The students who do well in the local competition will be nominated to compete in the national competition; that examination will be given in April at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond. The 2012 International Chemistry Olympiad will be held in July at the University of Maryland. For more information and the application forms, go to the Virginia Section website at <http://virginia.sites.acs.org/chemistryolympiad.htm>. Information is available there on both the 2011 and the 2012 Olympiads. Dr. Ann Sullivan is the coordinator for the Chemistry Olympiad in the Virginia Section; [asullivan@reynolds.edu](mailto:asullivan@reynolds.edu).

## **OLYMPIAD TEAM WINNERS TO BE RECOGNIZED**

The Virginia Section awards a number of prizes to students and schools that participate in the Chemistry Olympiad. School awards are given in four categories. Within each category, the school with the highest total of the top three student scores receives a plaque and a certificate of achievement. These team awards will be presented at the Section meeting on December 2. Here are the team award winners for the 2011 competition:

<b>First-Year Examination</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
Small School	St. Stephen's and St. Agnes' School	Sam Chan, Emily Myhre, Chris Pelliccia, Sarah Oakes
Large School	Albemarle High School	Marvin T. Curry, Erika Leer
<b>Second-Year Examination</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
Small School	St. Stephen's and St. Agnes' School	Sam Chan, Emily Myhre, Chris Pelliccia, Sarah Oakes
Large School	Albemarle High School	Marvin T. Curry, Erika Leer

### ***John B. Fenn Memorial Symposium***

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, Virginia

Invited Speakers:

Dr. R. Graham Cooks, Purdue University  
Dr. Mark Johnson, Yale University  
Dr. David Muddiman, North Carolina State University

Symposium 2:00 - 5:00; Reception 5:00 - 6:30

Call (804) 828-8660 or email [goodridge@vcu.edu](mailto:goodridge@vcu.edu) for more information



## **CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENTS AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE VIRGINIA SECTION**

<u>School/Location</u>	<u>Department Chair/ Program Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone/E-mail</u>
Bridgewater College Bridgewater, VA 22812	Dr. Joseph Crockett	(540) 828-5431 jcrocket@bridgewater.edu
College of William & Mary Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795	Dr. Chris Abelt	(757) 221-2540 cjabel@wm.edu
Eastern Mennonite University Harrisonburg, VA 22802	Dr. Doug Graber Neufeld	(540) 432-4401 neufeldd@emu.edu
Hampden-Sydney College Hampden-Sydney, VA 23943	Dr. Paul Mueller	(434) 223-6171 pmueller@hsc.edu
James Madison University Harrisonburg, VA 22801	Dr. Richard Foust	(540) 568-6246 foustrd@jmu.edu
Longwood University Farmville, VA 23909	Dr. Melissa Rhoten	(434) 395-2636 rhotenmc@longwood.edu
Mary Baldwin College Staunton, VA 24401	Dr. Ralph Karl Zachary	(540) 887-7117 kzachary@mbc.edu
Randolph-Macon College Ashland, VA 23005	Dr. Serge Schreiner	(804) 752-7206 sschrein@rmc.edu
Shenandoah University Winchester, VA 22601	Dr. Diep Ca	(540) 678-4330 dca@su.edu
University of Mary Washington Fredericksburg, VA 22401	Dr. Leanna Giancarlo	(540) 654-1407 lgiancar@umw.edu
University of Richmond Richmond, VA 23173	Dr. Lisa Gentile	(804) 484-1578 lgentile@richmond.edu
University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA 22904-4319	Dr. W. Dean Harman	(434) 924-3060 wdh5z@virginia.edu
Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Richmond, VA 23284	Dr. Scott Gronert	(804) 828-1298 sgronert@vcu.edu
Virginia State University Petersburg, VA 23806	Dr. Grace Ndip	(804) 524-5064 gndip@vsu.edu
Virginia Union University Richmond, VA 23220	Dr. Dorothy Eseonu	(804) 257-5615 dneseonu@vu.edu





**VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY**

Virginia Union University was founded in 1865 to give newly emancipated slaves an opportunity for education and advancement. The University is the result of the merger of four institutions: Richmond Theological Seminary, Wayland Seminary, Hartshorn Memorial College, and Storer College.

Richmond Theological Seminary held classes in Richmond, Virginia at Lumpkin’s Jail, a former holding cell for runaway slaves. During the same time, Wayland Seminary was founded by the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Washington, D.C. Two years later, in 1867, Storer College was founded in Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, and in 1883, Hartshorn Memorial College opened its doors in Richmond as the first college for African American women.

After three decades of operating independently, Richmond Theological Seminary and Wayland Seminary merged on February 11, 1899 to form Virginia Union University. Later, in 1932 and 1964, respectively, Hartshorn Memorial College and Storer College became a part of this union. Today, Virginia Union University has the distinction of being one of the oldest historically black universities in the South. For 146 years, the University has helped to shape the fabric of our local, regional, and global communities by adding quality leaders to the workforce. Our alumni include the only elected African American governor in the United States, the first African American admiral in the U.S. Navy, several of the first African American mayors of major cities, 22 college presidents, numerous ministers, senators, teachers, doctors, lawyers, business persons, and professional athletes.

Virginia Union remains on the cutting edge of higher education innovation, having become the nation’s first HBCU to implement a wireless computer infrastructure. The university’s undergraduate academic enterprise is comprised of four major units: the Sydney Lewis School of Business; the Evelyn Reid Syphax School of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies; the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; and the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology. The University’s internationally recognized graduate program, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, reaches more than 5,000 students and church leaders each year through its various on-campus events and statewide Evans-Smith continuing education program.



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WORDS OF WISDOM FOR DECEMBER: *“Yes, Virginia,  
There Is A Santa Claus”*

## OCTOBER SECTION MEETING

The October 27 Virginia Section meeting was held at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond as part of the SERMACS 2011 program. A full house of over 120 persons heard Dr. M. Samy El-Shall of Virginia Commonwealth University present a special talk for the International Year of Chemistry 2011. His topic was "Chemistry Makes Strong International Bonds." Dr. Scott Gronert, Chair of the Department of Chemistry at VCU, introduced Dr. El-Shall. Southeast Region ACS awards were presented to Dr. Carol Parish of the University of Richmond and Dr. Hongtao Yu of Jackson State University, each of whom received Stanley C. Israel Awards for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences. Dr. Paul Deck of Virginia Tech was presented the E. Ann Nalley Award for Volunteer Service to the Southeast Region of the ACS. Dr. Joseph Pompano, General Chair for SERMACS 2011, presided at the meeting. The ACS recognized the work of the Virginia Section in hosting SERMACS 2011 by presenting certificates of recognition to Joe Pompano, Ann Sullivan, and Fred Hawkridge. Eastman Chemical Company sponsored the awards dinner.



### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PERSON?



The photograph is from 1991 when this ham is shown raffling off a Virginia ham at the SERMACS 1991 meeting. At the time, he was chair of the Virginia Section. He may be the only person to serve as a Virginia Section officer for two different SERMACS meeting, since he is now the Vice Chair of the Section. The poster behind him declares that the ham, and many other raffle items, were among "Virginia's Finest." Murray Rosenberg solicited the raffle items and conducted the drawings at SERMACS 1991.

The persons shown in the October Bulletin were Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, Chair of the Virginia Section in 2006, and Dr. Henry R. Bungay of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who spoke at the Section meeting on January 20, 2006.



### QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST

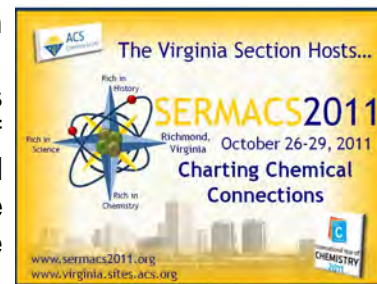
This question was asked in the October Bulletin: **When did the Virginia Section host its last SERMACS meeting and who were the co-chairs for that event?** Twenty years have passed since the last SERMACS meeting was held in Richmond in November, 1991. The theme was "Richmond, A Living Classic: Chemistry in the South for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The general chairpersons were Jerry Bass from Virginia Commonwealth University and Bill Kuhn from the Philip Morris USA Research Center. SERMACS-91 was held at the Marriott Hotel and the Richmond Centre.

A new Question: The Honorary Chairperson for SERMACS-91 was from the R&D Department of a company that contributed significantly to the funding for the meeting. **Who was that person?**



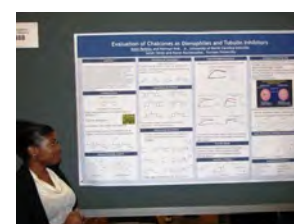
## SERMACS 2011

On October 26-29, the Virginia Section hosted the 63<sup>rd</sup> Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting. Preliminary reports indicate that SERMACS 2011 was a huge success! Over 1200 persons registered for the meeting that was held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. They took part in a wide variety of technical sessions, symposia, workshops, awards programs, courses, and poster sessions. There were several career development programs, a large chemical exposition, and a wide range of special programs for undergraduate students and high school teachers.



SERMACS highlights included a Women Chemists Committee (WCC) luncheon, a plenary lecture by Dr. Manfred Psiorz, an opening reception and SCIMIX poster session, an awards dinner at the Science Museum of Virginia, an undergraduate pizza party and karaoke competition, an education awards luncheon, a career fair, career workshops, an undergraduate awards breakfast, a graduate school fair, an ice cream social with ACS governance, and an ACS leadership development course.

Dr. Joseph M. Pompano was the general meeting chair. Dr. Fred Hawkrige and Dr. Ann Sullivan were co-chairs for the program; Dr. Will H. Lewis, Jr. served as treasurer; and Mark Mabry organized the chemical exposition. Michelle Stevenson was the ACS staff member who served as the meeting planner. Many other members of the Virginia Section and students from area colleges and universities volunteered their time and talents to ensure the success of this undertaking. More reports on SERMACS 2011 will appear in future issues of the Virginia Section Bulletin.



## ***THE BULLETIN***

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Stephanie  
Mabry

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