



**ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015**  
**VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE  
AWARD**



**DR. JOSEPH CROCKETT**  
Professor of Chemistry  
Bridgewater College

**INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**



**DR. DAVID GIAMALVA**  
Research Fellow  
Pfizer Consumer Healthcare

**2015 MEETINGS OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION**

- January 16** - Virginia Union University, Richmond  
- Annual Awards Meeting (see above)
- February 20** - University of Richmond, Richmond (note change of date)  
- Dr. Joseph DeSimone (W. Allan Powell Lectureship)
- March 13** - Randolph-Macon College, Ashland  
- Dr. Douglas Friedman
- April 17** - University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
- Mr. Nelson Ayala  
- Undergraduate Research Poster Session

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Virginia Section will meet on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, 1211 Sherwood Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. More details will be provided in the January issue of the Bulletin. All members of the section are invited to attend. For questions regarding the agenda and meeting, contact the 2015 Chair of the Virginia Section, Dr. Todd Koch, at (804) 257-2890, [Todd.Koch@pfizer.com](mailto:Todd.Koch@pfizer.com). Officers and committee chairs should prepare reports for posting on the Section website and for distribution at the meeting.

### THE CHAIR'S CORNER



This year seems to have flown by quickly and 2015 is just around the corner. We had a series of terrific section meetings and I would like to thank Todd Koch for arranging those and all of the local hosts for providing excellent venues for the meetings. My time as Chair has been made much easier by the support of the other officers of the Section: Todd Koch, Denise Walters, Stephanie Mabry, and Dustin Haddenham. Their knowledge and dedication to the Section are very valuable assets. In addition, Joe Crockett was a great resource as the Past-Chair. Finally, thanks to the Councilors and Trustees for their efforts in sustaining the Section.

Looking back at the year, it is rewarding to see a number of new faces engaged in the operation of the Section. Those include Linette Watkins as a new Councilor, Christine Farthing as our incoming Secretary, Hyacinthe Yarabe as the Minority Affairs Chair, and Michelle Bacher and Kathleen Sink as the Younger Chemists co-Chairs. Special thanks to Denise Walters and Joe Pompano for help in recruiting some of these individuals, who undoubtedly will have important roles in the future governance of the Section.

As it has been in the past, Ann Sullivan and Kristine Smetana have been key players in elevating the Section's profile in the community. Their work is invaluable to the Section and they deserve many thanks for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Todd Koch is taking over in January and I hope that he has the same level of support that I enjoyed as Chair of the Section. I know that he and Denise will be a strong team and I look forward to working with them in my role as Past-Chair.

I would also like to personally thank Jim Beck for all his help during the year. He really keeps "the train running on time" and provided great guidance and information throughout the year.

I wish the entire section a wonderful holiday season and thanks again for the opportunity to serve the Section.

Scott Gronert, 2014 Section Chair

## 2015 ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Joseph Crockett, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has reported these results of the balloting for 2015 officer positions:

**Chair - Dr. Todd Koch**

**Vice Chair - Dr. Colleen Taylor**

**Treasurer - Dr. Thad Hamel**

**Alternate Councilor - Dr. Joseph Crockett  
(three-year term)**

**Chair-Elect - Dr. Denise Walters**

**Secretary - Dr. Dustin Haddenman**

**Councilor - Dr. Linette Watkins  
(three-year term)**

**Trustee - Dr. James Demas  
(three-year term)**

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR THE VIRGINIA SECTION

The American Chemical Society issued a charter to the Virginia Section in April, 1915. During 2015, the Section will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special events are being planned. If you have ideas on ways to celebrate during our centennial year or would like to volunteer to assist in planning and executing the anniversary commemorations, please contact Dr. Todd Koch who is chairing an *ad hoc* committee for the centennial: [todd.koch@pfizer.com](mailto:todd.koch@pfizer.com); (804) 257-2890.

### REPORT ON THE OCTOBER SECTION MEETING

The Virginia Section met at James Madison University in Harrisonburg on Friday, October 24, to hear Dr. Daniel Downey speak on "Water Chemistry of North Branch Simpson Creek and the Rich Hole Wilderness Fire." Dr. Downey is a Professor of Analytical, Nuclear and Environmental Chemistry at James Madison University. He was introduced by Dr. Thomas DeVore. About 35 persons attended the talk which was preceded by a social hour and dinner. Dr. Scott Gronert, Chair of the Section, presided at the meeting. Thanks to Tom DeVore, Linette Watkins, and JMU for hosting this event and to Doreen DeVore for these photos of the meeting.



## REPORT ON THE WCC CHEMISTRY CAREER DISCUSSION PANEL



The annual WCC Chemistry Career Discussion Panel was held at John Tyler Community College in Chester on Thursday November 13, 2014. This was the sixth year for this event, as it returned to JTCC, but with a new format of a featured speaker and mock interviewing for the student attendees. Approximately thirty-five students, faculty, ACS members, and guests attended the presentation given by John Worth, the Director of Graduate Professional Development at Virginia Commonwealth University. Mr. Worth gave an engaging talk on resume presentation and how to successfully prepare for and go through the interviewing process. The formal presentation was followed by a reception and an open session for the students to sit down with professionals from local

chemical companies and recruitment agencies and practice their interviewing skills.

The WCC would like to thank JTCC and Dr. Kristine Smetana for hosting and organizing this event. We also want to recognize and thank all those who volunteered as mock interviewers: Erin Allen, Michelle Banks, Pat Barber, Samantha Brock, Rob Davidson, Toni Hermann, Todd Koch, Mark Mabry, Lesley Schmid, Maria Szajda-Lam, Nyssa Thongthai, Bill Welstead, Amanda White, and Courtney Wood. Information and photos courtesy of Stephanie Mabry.



## NCW IN HARRISONBURG



Members of the ACS Student Affiliate Chapter at James Madison University celebrated National Chemistry Week by participating in Harrisonburg's Halloween on the Square. They prepared "silly putty" and passed out samples to kids at the event. Shown in the photo are Daniel Corbin, Watson Stahl, and Alex Moore. Information and photo courtesy of Tom Devore.

## COMMUNICATIONS WEBINAR AT JMU

On Tuesday, October 7, The ACS Student Affiliate Chapter at James Madison University hosted a YCC-sponsored webinar on "Speaking Simply: Communicating Your Science." Panelists Douglas Dellemore and Darcy Gentleman (both from the ACS Office of Public Affairs) gave helpful tips on how to communicate complex scientific concepts to a general audience. The presentation was followed by a global Q&A in which students submitted questions electronically to the panelists. Twenty eight JMU students and faculty attended the event, which began with a fun networking game and ended with a raffle of ACS-logo items. (Information and photographs provided by Dr. Chrisi Hughey at JMU.)



## **POSITION AVAILABLE**

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

# **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

## **DIVISION OF CONSOLIDATED LABORATORY SERVICES**

**CL621: Laboratory Certification Officer (Scientist II)**

**Location: Richmond, VA**

**Salary Range: \$ 46,336 - \$57,697**

**Apply By: Open until filled**

The Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services is seeking qualified applicants to conduct laboratory certification inspections of public and private environmental laboratories for compliance with the Virginia Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (VELAP) regulations (Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC30-45 & 46) for laboratories throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Certification Officer will evaluate a laboratory's quality management system including: facilities, personnel, equipment, instrumentation, analytical methodology, procedures, proficiency testing and corrective actions. Certification Officers conduct certification inspections throughout the state to ensure compliance with regulations. Certification Officers conduct full record reviews, interview and document analyst adherence to procedures, conduct pre-and post-audit conferences, and prepare written reports and correspondence. They also track a laboratory's adherence to the regulation 1VAC30-45 or 1VAC30-46.

**Qualifications:** The Certification Officer must be an experienced professional (environmental laboratory testing preferred) and hold at least a Bachelor's degree (BS) in a scientific discipline (chemical, biological, or environmental sciences strongly preferred) or have equivalent experience in laboratory assessment. Experience working in an environmental laboratory, a working knowledge of laboratory assessment procedures, and familiarity with the development of quality management plans, quality assurance, training, are necessary to be successful in this position. Experience in certification and auditing of environmental laboratories is strongly preferred. The individual must possess strong verbal and written communication skills. Successful completion of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Laboratory Certification Officer course in Inorganic, Organic Chemistry or Microbiology for certification or auditing of environmental laboratories is preferred. Experience as a qualified NELAC assessor or ISO 17025 audit experience is strongly preferred. Familiarity with 1VAC30-45, 1VAC30-46 and the 2003 NELAC standards is preferred.

The selected candidate must successfully complete the NELAC Basic Assessor Training Course as well as a minimum of two technical courses (Inorganic, Organic, Metals or Microbiology) for auditing and assessment.

The selected candidate will be required to successfully complete a fingerprint based background check. A valid driver's license is required. Overnight travel will be required. Sponsorship will not be provided for this position. To apply online, please go to [www.dgs.jobs](http://www.dgs.jobs). Applications will be accepted until a suitable pool of candidates is received. For assistance or computer access, please visit your local VEC Office or contact our office at [jobs@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:jobs@dgs.virginia.gov) or (804) 786-3910. EOE



## REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER MEETING

On November 4, a full house of more than a hundred persons heard Dr. Gregory Petsko from Brandeis University talk about “The Coming Epidemic of Neurodegenerative Diseases and What Science Is – and Should Be – Doing About It.” The November meeting of the Virginia Section was held at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. Dr. Petsko was introduced by Professor Hillary Stebbins, President of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Mary Washington. Dr. Petsko presented some alarming statistics on Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), as well as the need for expanded research in these diseases. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Virginia Section, Phi Beta Kappa, the Department of Psychology, the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Chemistry, the Honors Program, the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Provost, and the UMW Campus Academic Resources Committee. Special thanks to Dr. Janet Asper and her colleagues in the Department of Chemistry for helping to organize this meeting.



### CAN YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PERSON?



The photograph is from 2005. The subject spoke at the Virginia Section meeting that was held on October 21, 2005 at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton. His topic was “From Computational Chemistry to Catalyst and Materials Design.” At the time he was the Alice M. And Guy A. Wilson Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Virginia where he held a joint appointment in the Department of Chemistry. His research work focused on the simulation of material properties with a particular interest in catalysis.

The mystery persons shown in the November Bulletin were all winners of the Virginia Section’s Distinguished High School Teacher Award. Left to right: Christy Thomas (1997), William Rademaker (1988), Pamela Gentry (2004), Thomas Earles (1982), Joy Ross (2001)



WORDS OF WISDOM FOR DECEMBER:

**“Never Lie To Yourself”**



*Happy Holidays*



## JEFF SEEMAN REVIEWS NEW CARL DJERASSI BOOK



Dr. Jeffrey Seeman, Visiting Senior Research Scholar at the University of Richmond, has written an extensive review of Carl Djerassi's new book, **In Retrospect: From the Pill to the Pen**. The review appeared in the October 20, 2014 issue of *CEN* (page 38). Here is a salient quote from the article:

"...if there is anyone who deserves to have had several autobiographies published and read, it is this superhuman character whose longevity, intensity, intellectual polygamy, insatiable curiosity, and 24/7 lifestyle have provided him the equivalent of multiple lives."



Dr. Seeman has had a longstanding interest in the history of chemistry and has published numerous articles on noteworthy chemists. He was the creator and editor of the series of 20 autobiographies of eminent chemists titled **Profiles, Pathways and Dreams**, published by the ACS. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. For more information on the fascinating life of Carl Djerassi, read these two articles by Dr. Seeman: **Carl Djerassi: In His Own Words**, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 3268-3279 (available at [www.angewandte.org](http://www.angewandte.org)); **Carl Djerassi's Search for Home**, *Chem. Eng. News*, **2013** 91(42) 10-14 (Oct. 21, 2013 issue of *CEN*).

## CHEMICAL PLANT IN PETERSBURG TO REOPEN

UniTao Pharmaceuticals LLC, a China-based company, has purchased the Boehringer Ingelheim plant in Petersburg and will invest \$22.5 million to establish operations there and to upgrade the plant. In 2013, Boehringer announced the closure of the plant by the end of 2014 with the loss of 240 jobs. UniTao is expecting to employ as many as 376 people in three years. They are a subsidiary of Shanghai-based Tenry Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd. that manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients for common over-the-counter medications.



## QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST

This question was asked in the November Bulletin: Except for 1983, 1991 and 2011, the Virginia Section has met in Fredericksburg every November since 1978. **What happened in 1983, 1991, and 2011?** The Nov. 18, 1983 and Nov. 1, 1991 meetings were held at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton; there was no regular Section meeting in November, 2011 because of SERMACS-2011.

A new question from the past: Door prizes were given at the Mixer that was held during SERMACS-91 in Richmond. Emma Goldman of U of R, Jerry Bass of VCU, Beth-Owens Waltermier of American Tobacco, and Linda Cao of DuPont each received a bottle of Virginia wine. **Who was the faculty member from VCU who won the grand prize, a Virginia ham?**



## **THE BULLETIN**

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**Scott Gronert**

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