APRIL MEETING NOTICE

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Friday, April 15, 2022

POSTER SESSION: 5:00 - 7:00 pm
(StUDENT RESEARCH)
Lobby
Chemistry Building

DINNER: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Lobby
Chemistry Building

PROGRAM: 7:00 pm
Room 390
Gilmer Hall

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 by NOON on Wednesday, April 13.

PRICE: $8.00 - members, guests, college students
$4.00 - high school students

HOST: Dr. Rebecca Rose Pompano - (434) 982-1825;
rpompano@virginia.edu

PROGRAM: Undergraduate Research Poster Session

Presentation of ACS Awards to Outstanding Senior Chemistry Majors at Colleges and Universities in the Virginia Section
DIRECTIONS

Note that this year’s meeting is back in the Chemistry Building. Once you park, walk up Chemistry Drive to McCormick Rd. When you get to McCormick Rd, go to the left. The Chemistry Building is the next building after Wilsdorf Hall. You can enter either side of the Chemistry Building (go past the Chemistry Building to the other side if you need handicap accessibility). Gilmer Hall is adjacent to the Chemistry Building. For GPS purposes, please use 90 Geldard Drive as the address to access our parking lots.

From 29N Come straight into town past Memorial Gym and a parking garage on your right. Pass under two overhead bridges, and then bear right immediately afterwards onto Stadium Rd. Turn right at the stop sign at the top of the hill onto Whitehead Road. Parking is on the right and left. Do not park in the athletic center spots.

From I-64 Take exit 118B and take the first exit (Charlottesville/29 Business). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Turn left at the 2nd traffic light onto Maury Avenue. Go straight at the stop sign. Turn right onto Whitehead Rd (immediately after passing the football stadium). Parking is on the right and left. Do not park in the athletic center spots.

If you miss the first off ramp after I-64, take the next exit (Ivy Rd/UVA Information). Turn right at the second light onto Alderman Rd. Go straight at the traffic light. Turn left onto Whitehead Rd. (there’s a clock tower on the corner and the football stadium opposite it).

Until 5:00 pm, all parking around the Chemistry Building is restricted and you will be ticketed.

A detailed on-line map can be found at visitormap.virginia.edu. Zoom in on the UVA Grounds map to see the names of campus buildings.
POSTER SESSION

The Virginia Section will hold its annual poster session at the April 15 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 Cindy Knight at (434) 924-7995; csk3a@virginia.edu. More information can be found at: 2022 American Chemical Society Poster Session | Department of Chemistry (virginia.edu)

The deadline for registering a poster is **12:00 pm on April 11**. We invite everyone to come early for the UVA meeting and to support these young researchers.

AWARDS TO COLLEGE SENIORS

Outstanding senior chemistry majors from colleges and universities in the Virginia Section will be honored at the April 15 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 15 and each will receive a certificate of recognition, a one-year membership in the ACS, and a special gift from the Virginia Section. Chemistry departments must inform Chair Vanessa Lopez of their nominees. If you have not submitted the name of your outstanding senior chemistry student, please contact Vanessa as soon as possible: (804) 920-3558; vanessa.f.lopez@altria.com.

COME EARLY ON APRIL 15 TO SEE THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTERS

AT THE APRIL 15 MEETING, AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO OUTSTANDING SENIOR CHEMISTRY MAJORS (SEE ARTICLE ABOVE)
CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The University of Virginia Department of Chemistry combines outstanding physical facilities with a close-knit community of scholars. With a faculty size of 36, a graduate student body of 122, and 17 postdoctoral associates, a stimulating atmosphere strongly encouraging interactive association has been created. Faculty research areas span a wide range offering a varied program of courses and research problems. Our 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; Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards for excellence in both teaching and research; Virginia Scientist of the Year awards, a Sloan Foundation Award, Alexander von Humboldt Research Prizes, an Analytical Chemistry Award in Chemical Instrumentation, a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, a Coblenz Award, a MacArthur Genius Award, the Williams F. Meggers Award (from the Optical Society), and the Charles H. Herty Medal.

Recent graduate student national fellowship awards include the Cognis Corporation Research Fellowship in Colloid and Surface Chemistry, the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Predoctoral Fellowship Award, The Lilly Foundation Graduate Fellowship, The Science Application International Corporation Award, the Defense Forensic Science Center Fellowship, the Jefferson Dissertation Year Fellowship, and the Achievement Reward for College Scientists (ARCS).

The goal of graduate study in chemistry is to develop outstanding young scientists able to make significant contributions in their chosen fields. A graduate student can expect to have considerable input in both the design of his or her own degree program. 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, Membrane Bound Proteins, Microfluidics, Biomedical Engineering, Neurosciences, Chemistry of the Universe and Catalysts for New Energy Processes. Faculty in the Chemistry Department participate in several research centers, including the Center for Nano-biosystems research, the Center for Molecular, Optical and Atomic Science, MAXNET Energy, the Center for Astrochemistry, the Center for Membrane Biology, the Cardiovascular Research Center and the UVA Cancer Center. These programs, along with ongoing research in analytical methods, synthetic inorganic and organic chemistry, chemical biology, 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 attr. acts more than $8 million per year in new 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 provides fundamental references and resources. Most major journals and data bases are available on line. 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.
**VIRGINIA SECTION OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Ashley Tubbs has been named the 2022 Outreach Volunteer of the Year for the Virginia Section. She is shown here with the award that she received from the national ACS. An article on Volunteers of the Year, including Ashley, was published in the March 7 issue of *C&EN* (page 36, see [CEN.ACS.ORG](http://CEN.ACS.ORG)). Ashley has been an active member of the Younger Chemists Committee of the Virginia Section and has helped to organize and advertise several events for the Section and for the Eastern US YCC Partnership. She is a third-year graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

‘A DAY IN LIFE OF A CHEMISTRY ENTREPRENEUR’

On **February 23, 2022**, via Zoom, the **Eastern US Younger Chemist Committee Partnership** of the American Chemical Society (which encompasses the Virginia, North Carolina, St. Louis, Indiana, Philadelphia, Connecticut Valley, Eastern New York, Northern New York, Rochester, and the Puerto Rico local sections), with co-sponsorship by the ACS Division of Small Chemical Business (SCHB), hosted a webinar titled ‘A Day in the Life of a Chemistry Entrepreneur’ with speaker **Dr. Margaret Kocherga**. After introductions and ACS public relations information, Dr. Kocherga shared with the 26 attendees some of her educational background, the STEM outreach programs she is involved with, and information on her company, Margik, which aims to provide sustainable solutions for manufacturers of displays and lighting. She discussed some of the challenges being faced with organic light emitting diodes (OLED), the market outlook, and the strategies her company are leveraging to prepare these types of materials. Dr. Kocherga ended her talk by sharing what she does on a typical day as a founder of a tech startup. The attendees were allotted 25 minutes for a Q&A period prior to the conclusion of the webinar. Based on a Zoom poll, those who attended rated this event as excellent or good. The recorded content of this webinar and other similar content can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7Lgvn2NvMU&t=717s&ab_channel=EasternUSYCCPartnership](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7Lgvn2NvMU&t=717s&ab_channel=EasternUSYCCPartnership)

**Dr. Margaret Kocherga**, Founder and CEO of Margik, is an award-winning early-stage entrepreneur, a trilingual, a TEDx speaker, and an educator. She has a PhD in Nanoscale Science, and her specialties are organic and hybrid materials for organic electronic devices, and heavy metal reactivity and toxicity. In addition to being a scientist, Margaret is also a professional ballerina. Her trajectory from the stage to the laboratory was the result of a career-ending injury, which pushed her to search for additional paths. Overcoming hardships is something that she has learned to take in stride and uses to fuel her success. Margaret is currently participating in a 2-year entrepreneurial program, **Chain Reaction Innovations**, in partnership with Argonne National Lab, to help accelerate her technology’s market readiness. Currently, she is participating in the **Bethesda Green** accelerator, focused on the growth of cleantech companies. Margaret partnered with the Belk School of Business at UNC Charlotte to develop a course to work with local and international students on the real-life challenges of international business development. She is continuing to work with her alma mater, UNC Charlotte, as a business partner as well. Her goal is to be at the forefront of the technological revolution to create a sustainable future, by making consumer electronics advancements via cleantech approaches.
# CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENTS AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE VIRGINIA SECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Location</th>
<th>Department Chair/Program Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
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SENIOR CHEMISTS MEETING

Are you a Senior Chemist (age 50+) who is interested in connecting and supporting other Senior Chemists in the Virginia Section? If so, please join us for the kick-off meeting for the Virginia Section Senior Chemist Committee. Joe Pompano and Rob Davidson have agreed to serve as initial co-chairs for this committee. They want your ideas for events and activities.

The Kick-off Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 24th at the Innsbrook location of the Capital Ale House (4024 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA) from 11:45 – 1:15. Join us for a sandwich (pay for your own meal) and discussion.

Please contact Rob Davidson (robiradav@aol.com) or Joe Pompano (pompano13220@gmail.com) to let them know if you are planning to attend. If there is interest, they will arrange for a Zoom link for the discussion portion of the meeting (12:30 – 1:15). Also, please reach out to them if you have ideas for events or just want additional information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 - RSVP deadline for Mary E. Kapp Lecture at VCU
- Deadline (12 pm) for entering undergraduate research poster session on April 15

April 14 - Mary E. Kapp Lecture at VCU: Dr. Richmond Sarpong

April 15 - Virginia Section Meeting at UVA (Undergraduate Research Poster Session)

May 24 - Virginia Senior Chemists Meeting
On March 10, 2022, via Zoom, the Eastern US Younger Chemist Committee Partnership of the American Chemical Society (which encompasses the Virginia, North Carolina, St. Louis, Indiana, Philadelphia, Connecticut Valley, Eastern New York, Northern New York, Rochester, and the Puerto Rico local sections) hosted a webinar titled ‘A Day in the Life of a Synthetic Chemist’ with speaker Dr. Isaiah Speight. After introductions and ACS public relations information, Dr. Speight shared with the 31 attendees his educational background, his inspiration for becoming a chemist, and some of his research from undergrad to his position now as a postdoc. He described some of his experiences as a black chemist dealing with microaggression, stressed the importance of finding community, and ended the webinar with what a typical day for him looks like. The attendees were allotted 15 minutes for a Q&A prior to the conclusion of the webinar. Based on a Zoom poll, the attendees rated this event as excellent. The recorded content of this webinar and other similar content can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-onZ0CwhoYk

Dr. Isaiah Speight is a native of the Hampton-Roads area of Virginia. He earned his B.S. in chemistry in 2016 from Norfolk State University. During this time, he did undergraduate research in polymer and carbohydrate synthesis. As a Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University, Isaiah developed new mechanochemical methods for making inorganic and organometallic compounds. Currently, he is a NIGMS Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Irvine, working in Professor Vy Dong’s group. His research focuses on the development of new technologies for amide reduction and bond formation. In addition to his bench work, Isaiah works very closely with the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers to create communities for black scientists to thrive in, and to build connections to create new opportunities for these. In the Fall of 2023, Dr. Speight will continue his career as a research and teaching professor at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CRIME SCENE CHEMIST

Join the Younger Chemists Committee on Thursday, April 28th, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm EDT (6:00 - 7:00 pm CT) for A Day in the Life of a Crime Scene Chemist! Ciaran "Science" Phillip will discuss his role as a writer, editor, and the first civilian crime scene investigator in the Caribbean nation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Register: https://american-chemical-society.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rd-mvrTkvH9E6Lij0A0zsFnRXxzq5-UI4

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

April 14 - Dr. Richmond Sarpong, University of California, Berkeley, “Break-it-to-Make-it Strategies for Chemical Synthesis Inspired by Complex Natural Products” (Mary E. Kapp Lecture) 4:00 pm in Room 303 of the James Cabell Library
CHEMISTRY SEMINARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

April 20 - Dr. Lissa Anderson, Florida State University
April 22 - Dr. Lisa Jones, University of Maryland
April 29 - Dr. Holger Braunschweig, Universitat Wurzburg, Germany

Seminars will be held primarily in-person. Friday seminars will be at 3:30 pm in Gilmer 390; Wednesday seminars will be held in MEC 205.

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.

VIRGINIA SECTION RECEIVES FOUR CHEMLUMINARY AWARDS

The Virginia Section was selected as winners of four ChemLuminary Awards in 2021. ChemLuminary Awards recognize volunteer efforts by the society’s local sections and technical divisions. The Section was nominated for seven of the awards and won in these four categories:

- Best Activity or Program Stimulating Member Involvement
- Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students
- Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience
- Outstanding Local Section Younger Chemists Committee

Dr. Kristine Smetana, Chair of the Community Activities Committee for the Virginia Section, is shown here with two of the Section’s 2021 ChemLuminary awards. She had primary responsibility for the “Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students” and the “Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience.” The Virginia Section has now won a total of 26 ChemLuminary Awards during the 23 years that they have been presented by the national ACS. Also, the Section has received three Phoenix Awards (the predecessors of the ChemLuminary awards) and two “Best Local Section” awards (1969 and 1988).
VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) will be on **May 19-20, 2022** at Liberty University in Lynchburg. More information and the registration procedure can be found on the VAS website: www.vaacadsci.org/VAS-meetings. The registration deadline is **April 30**.

ACS VIRGINIA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

*Guiding the Future of Chemistry!*

- Mentors provide a valuable link between younger chemists and the professional community

- **To Volunteer:** sign up by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone camera or copy the link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HKL2PNL

- Sign up by **May 2022** for the initial 2022 roll-out

- Mentoring tools will be available for guidance

“A good word to describe how my experience with a mentor has impacted me is "insightful". This is because I have learned a lot of things that I otherwise would not have known about if I didn’t join the YCC as a mentee. The experience has been extremely helpful for me…”

*Undergraduate Chemistry Student*

Email Julian Bobb (YCC Chair, bobbia@vcu.edu) if you have any questions.