



January 19, 2022

## Immediate Past-Chair's Report of the Section Activity/Successes/Challenges During the period of January to December 2021

- The Section held two virtual Zoom Executive Committee (EC) Meetings in 2021, one on Saturday January 30, 2021 and a second virtual meeting on July 10, 2021. During the EC Section Meetings, we discussed and approved the 2021 budget and the Officers and Committees reports. On December 16, 2021 a transition meeting was held to welcome the 2022 Executive Board Officers. The Section held five of six regular monthly meetings. For the first time, in at least seventy years, there were no “in-person” meetings of the Section in 2021.
- The virtual January Section Meeting was held on January 29th and was sponsored by the Younger Chemist Committee (YCC) which included a networking session “*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace*”. **Dr. Julian Bobb**, Chair of the YCC for the Virginia Section also shared information on some of the 2020 activities and how cooperation with other local sections has provided more programming content and enlarged the scope of YCC activities and participation. **Dr. Jeffrey I. Seeman** delivered a talk on “*The Mutation of the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry’ into the ‘Nobel Prize in Chemistry or Life Sciences’: Several Decades of Transparent and Opaque Evidence of Change within the Nobel Prize Program*”. The YCC was very active in January hosting the Eastern US YCC Webinar “*A Day in the Life of an Eastern US YCC Graduate Student*”. **Dr. Bobb** also participated in the 2021 ACS Leadership Institute Experience and gave a brief presentation on the featured program “*Mastering the Virtual World: Professional Development for Younger Chemist*”
- The February Section Meeting, February 26, 2021 featured the University of Richmond Powell Lectureship presented by **Dr. Joseph S. Francisco** (University of Pennsylvania) on “*A Fresh Look at the Chemistry Behind Acid Rain and Implications for Climate Geoengineering*”. Over 110 participants attended the virtual Zoom meeting. On February 23, 2021 the ACS Younger Chemists Committees (YCC’s) hosted the Eastern US YCC Partnership Webinar: *A Day in the Life of an ACS Volunteer* **Dr. Julian Bobb** and **Dr. James Murry** were featured as outstanding local section volunteers.
- The March Section Meeting, March 19, 2021, hosted by **Ms. Kathleen Spangler**, **Ms. Vanessa Lopez** and **Dr. LaChelle Waller** was the Virginia Section Awards meeting recognizing four outstanding award recipients **Dr. Greg Grover** Chief Technology Officer, Contraline, Inc. (Industrial Leadership Ward), **Dr. Georgios Karles** Managing

Director, Altria Client Services Engineering in Richmond, VA (Outstanding Innovator Award), **Dr. Hani El-Kaderi** Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry Virginia Commonwealth University (Distinguished Research Award), and **Dr. M. Samy El-Shall** Mary Eugena Kapp Endowed Chair in Chemistry, Commonwealth Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University (Distinguished Service Award) and featured speaker **Dr. M. Samy El-Shall** (Virginia Commonwealth University) who delivered a talk on “*ACS & CNN: Clusters, Nucleation and Nanoparticles*”.

On March 3, 2021 **Dr. Julian Bobb** initiated the first session of the new Younger Chemists Virtual Book Club. The book was titled “*Inclusive Leadership-the Definitive Guide to Developing and Executing and Impactfully Diversity and Inclusion Strategy* by **Charlotte Sweeney** and **Fluer Bothwick**.”

In March the Section also supported the Metro Richmond STEM Fair. **Rob Davidson** serves as the designated Section’s contact for the Metro Richmond STEM Fair and sponsored awards for the winners of the Sr. Chemistry division. The Section sent the Math Science and Innovation Center (MSIC) a check for \$175 (\$100 for the winner and \$75 for second place). Congratulations to the winners Daniel Phillip from Godwin High School, teacher Dana Delano and Thanvi Parupati from Godwin High School, teacher Samantha Cope.

- In April, the Section honored the outstanding senior chemistry majors from colleges and universities in Virginia with the 2021 Undergraduate Chemistry Student Award on April 16, 2021. The following students were Jyailah (Jay) Friendly (Bridgewater College), Brianna Peterson (College of William and Mary), Reuben Peachy-Stoner (Eastern Mennonite University), Tyler Brittain (James Madison University), Keira Naff (Longwood University), Jessica Balough (Mary Baldwin University), Jason Morgan (Shenandoah University), Ashley Utz (University of Mary Washington), Scott Isaacson (University of Richmond), Julia Dressel (University of Virginia), Mytia Edwards (Virginia Commonwealth University), Zhaniya Bryant (Virginia State University), and Korey Fennell (Virginia Union University) This award consists of a certificate, a one-year membership in the ACS, and a gift card. The 2021 undergraduate research poster session was the 33<sup>rd</sup> that the Section has held hosted by the Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia also on April 16, 2021. **Dr. James Demas**, retired Professor of Chemistry at University of Virginia served as the host with assistance by **Cindy Knight**, Administrative Assistant for the Chemistry Department. The poster session featured 42 posters with 109 participants in attendance.

April 22, 2021 the YCC Hosts “*A Day in the Life of a Chemist Turned Entrepreneur*” with speaker Nikolina (Niki) Milanovic Lowry, ChemCove.

On April 29, 2021 **Dr. Charlene Crawley** Associate Professor Virginia Commonwealth University and Minority Affairs Chair and **Jasmine Witt**, ACS Student Affiliate at VCU Chapter President hosted the virtual event *Diversity & Inclusion in STEM Program ‘Thru the Lens of Chemistry’* 73 participants attended. Joint goals of the event were to increase student awareness regarding the climate challenges for historically marginalized students, faculty and professionals in STEM and providing financial incentives for student participation. Panelist included **Dr Colleen Taylor** Associate Professor, Virginia State University; **Dr. Karl Jackson** Chair Chemistry, Virginia Union University; **Ms. Vanessa**

**Lopez** Scientist, Altria; **Dr. Mychal Smith** Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University; **Dr. Dwight Williams** Associate Professor, Kalamazoo College; **Dr. Katherine Bollinger** Forensic Scientist, RTI International; **Dr. Julio Alvarez** Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, **Dr. Linda Amos** Medical Pharmacy Writer and **Josly Pierre-Louis** PhD Graduate Student Molecular Medicine MCV/Virginia Commonwealth University.

- The Section participated at the in-person Spring 2021 May Graduation Ceremony at Virginia Commonwealth University. **Dr. Denise Walters**, Strategy and Operations Lead at GSK in Richmond was selected as the Commencement Speaker. **Dr. M. Samy El-Shall** and **Dr. LaChelle Waller** also participated.

**Ms. Stacy Sank** (WCC Chair) hosted the WCC Virtual Luncheon on May 12, 2021. Topic: *Earth Day Sustainability*

- The Eastern U.S. YCC Partnership sponsored a virtual Interview Workshop Via Zoom on June 24, 2021.
- The September meeting held virtually and hosted on September 17, 2021 by **Ms. Vanessa Lopez** with the assistance of **Dr. LaChelle Waller** was the Teachers' Awards meeting and featured speaker **Dr. James Demas** retired Professor, University of Virginia "*A Random Walk Through Sixty Years of Chemistry*" The recipients of the Teachers' Awards were:  
**Mr. David Thomas**, Greensville Elementary School, Greensville County, Distinguished Elementary School Science Teacher Award;

**Ms. Carolyn Wilkerson**, Tomahawk Creek Middle School, Chesterfield County, Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher Award; and

**Ms. Susan Saylor**, Sherando High School, Frederick County, Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher Award. Each awardee received a plaque and check for \$300. Each school received a check for \$300 to use for science teaching.

The Women Chemists Committee held the virtual luncheon meeting on September 22, 2021 hosted by **Ms. Stacey Sank** (Chair of the Virginia Section WCC)

- The October Meeting was an entirely social event and consisted of the first Section virtual Escape Room (**CyberDox: Escape From CyberSpace**) held on October 22, 2021. In October the Virginia Section had its annual National Chemistry Week event at the Science Museum of Virginia on October 18, 2021. **Dr. Julian Bobb** organized volunteers from local Colleges and Universities and Chemical/Pharmaceutical Companies. There were many hands-on engaging activities for children promoting the value of chemistry in everyday life. The event was organized by **Dr. Kristine Smetana** (Southside Virginia Community College), Chair of the Community Activities Committee for the Virginia Section. The YCC of the Virginia Section and the Eastern US YCC partnership hosted the

“Day in the Life” series on October 27, 2021 featuring Agricultural Chemist **Dr. Tejas Sha** along with a Saturday October 9, 2021 program on “The Art of Self-Care”

- The Section has been selected as a finalist for the following ChemLuminary Award(s):
  - Best Activity or Program Stimulating Member Involvement
  - Most Creative NCW Celebration Using the Yearly Theme
  - Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students
  - Outstanding Local Section Industry Event
  - Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience
  - Outstanding Local Section Younger Chemists Committee
- The section received four ChemLuminary Awards on October 21, 2021
  - 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
- Additional outstanding Section accomplishments include **Stacey Sank** Scale Up and Stewardship Process Engineer, Pain Relief and Respiratory Health GSK Consumer Healthcare, Richmond Virginia received the Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award for 2021 and **Dr. Kathryn Deibler**, Principal Flavor Scientist at GSK Consumer Healthcare, Richmond Virginia was named an ACS Fellow.
- The YCC of the VA Section received a Senior Chemist Mini-Grant of \$500. **Dr. Rob Davidson** and **Dr. Joe Pompano** are leading the efforts to get the committee moving forward.
- In November the YCC hosted a Mentorship Program Social for the mentors and mentees on November 13, 2021 **Dr. Julian Bobb** (YCC Chair) lead the initiative.
- In December the Virginia Section of the ACS served as a sponsor along with the Department of Chemistry at VCU and VCU Libraries for the VCU 4<sup>th</sup> Annual student-led, in-person, Chemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8pm. The YCC members (**Ashley Armstrong Baz**, **Ashley Tubbs** and **Erica Baz**) served as judges and announced the winners  
The ACS VA Section YCC Judges announced each winner during the event. Each winner received an Amazon gift card.

1st Place **Andy Shar** \$100.00 Poster title "*A Highly Conductive, Flexible, and 3D-printable Carbon Nanotube-Elastomer Ink for Additive Bio-manufacturing.*" research advisor is **Dr. Joung**

2nd Place **Maggie Nguyen** \$75.00 Poster title "*The Role of Lamb1b Gene in Hematopoietic Stem Cell (HSC) Development in Zebra Fish*", Research Advisor **Dr. Erich Damm**

3rd Place **Romi Balasubramanian** \$50.00 Poster title " *$\alpha$ -Conotoxin Sensitive \*nAChRs in the IPN support somatic withdrawal in rats*". Research Advisor **Dr. Darlene Brunzell**

The December "Transition Meeting" was held on December 16, 2021 and convened by **Dr. LaChelle Waller** to welcome the 2022 Executive Board Officers. **Ms. Vanessa Lopez** (Chair), **Dr. Jack D. Brown** (Chair Elect), **Dr. Charlene Crawley** (Vice Chair), **Dr. Julian Bobb** (Secretary), **Dr. Rob Davidson** (Treasurer)



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