

## ACS Virginia Section Younger Chemists Committee Chair Report: 05/24/2019

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Temple Building (Room 3309) at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA  
*Submitted By: Julian Bobb, Chair*

### 2019 BUDGET

We have a budget of \$1200.00. We have spent \$273.95 on activities so far. We've applied for a \$500.00 ACS Corporation Associates Local Section Grant back in March to fund the Mentorship Luncheon in the Fall. We haven't heard back about their decision. Allotments: \$350 for the ACS Virginia Mentorship Luncheon in the Fall, \$350 for Chemistry Trivia Night in the Fall.

### 2019 ACTIVITIES

#### A. YCC HOSTS CAREER TALK AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we hosted a Career Talk at Virginia State University (VSU) with speaker, Mr. Terry Looney (President, STX Analytical). This interactive and engaging talk was attended by 15 participants, inclusive of chemistry undergraduate students from Virginia State University and graduate students from Virginia Commonwealth University. First, while the attendees were enjoying delicious pizzas and soft drinks, Julian Bobb (YCC Chair) talked about what is the ACS younger chemists committee, the ACS Virginia Mentorship Program & how to sign up, and about upcoming YCC activities. Followingly, Mr. Terry Looney gave a talk on "So, you want to be a Scientist!"

#### B. YCC SPONSORED ACS PROGRAM-IN-A-BOX AT UVA

On Tuesday, February, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the YCC in conjunction with the ACS Student Affiliate Chapter at the University of Virginia (UVA) hosted an "ACS PROGRAM-IN-A-BOX" (PIB). In total, 32 people attended this special webinar inclusive of 27 chemistry undergraduate students and 2 staff members from UVA, along with graduate PhD students from Virginia Commonwealth University. The ACS PROGRAM-IN-A-BOX" event is a webinar sponsored by the National ACS to provide a cost-effective program targeting student affiliates and local section chapters. This broadcast was focused on "The Evolving Periodic Table and it's Incredible Elements!" and it was conducted in celebration of the 2019 International Year of the Periodic Table. Julian Bobb (YCC Chair) shared information about the ACS, the current ACS Virginia Mentorship Program, and he thanked the staff and students for hosting. The ACS Chemistry Student Affiliate Chapter at UVA only started last year so this was a great opportunity to engage and recruit students for their organization.

### C. SLIME NIGHT AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA

On Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (5:00 – 8:00 PM) the American Chemical Society (ACS) Virginia Section along with Pfizer Consumer Healthcare sponsored Science After Dark: Slime Night! at the Science Museum of Virginia with partnership from Bon Secours. This highly interactive and engaging event was attended by approximately 2500 guests. Eleven Pfizer Consumer Healthcare colleagues, five of whom are ACS members, participated. Nineteen people volunteered on behalf of the ACS, eight of whom are ACS members. The ACS volunteers encompassed chemistry undergraduate and graduate students from Virginia Commonwealth University, along with current local, and retired industrial scientists. The Pfizer volunteers hosted two tables of hands on activities: 1) *Go with the Flow* (How different ratios and conditions impact the finished slime product) including a PowerPoint presentation on the chemistry of slime, 2) *See. Smell. Slime* (How color influences our ability to identify fragrances in slime, and 3) *Goggles Giveaway* (given to the first 300 guests). Some ACS volunteers demonstrated *Squirmy Worms* made using  $\text{CaCl}_2$  solution and Sodium Alginate. The ACS volunteers explained the science behind Squirmy Worms and assisted guests with making them. The other ACS volunteers assisted guests in The Forge of the Science Museum, making silicon molds and in the Rotunda, monitoring the 25 different types of slimes (i.e. glitter slime, galaxy slime, fluffy slime, Lego slime and, more). The ACS and Pfizer volunteers were very engaged with guests.

### D. Dinner, Lab Safety & Career Talk with the Colonial Virginia Chapter ASSP

On Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (6:00 – 7:30 PM) the local Colonial Virginia Chapter American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) hosted Dinner and Presentations from members. *This event was co-sponsored by the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Safety and Risk Management and the ACS Virginia Section Younger Chemists Committee.* It took place at Rodney's, Shafer Court Dining Center at Virginia Commonwealth University. About 15 people attended inclusive of undergraduate & graduate chemistry students from Virginia Commonwealth University, undergraduate chemistry students from Virginia State University, along with members from the colonial Virginia chapter ASSP and VCU Safety and Risk Management. Three of the attendees are ACS members. The event: "*Safety is a Full-Time Job: Don't make it a Part-Time practice*" was proctored by **Kabrina Tippett**. Kabrina graduated with a BS in chemistry from VCU and currently works there as a Laboratory Safety Technician (Safety and Risk Management-Environmental, Health and Safety).

The first speaker, **Susan Wilcox**, shared about her educational and career experiences. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in both Biology and Chemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1989. She entered the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) profession as a licensed Asbestos technician and quickly climbed the Corporate ladder (Honeywell, NewMarket and The Federal Reserve). The second speaker, **Tim Belitz**, also shared about his educational and career experiences. He is currently the Director of Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) at AdvanSix. He guides the organization through the development of compliant, effective, and consistent HSE standards and practices across their supply chain. Mr. Belitz has held numerous HSE positions in manufacturing organizations over the last 25 years. These include chemical, automotive and tobacco. He graduated from the Duke University's Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management Program in 2013.

In conclusion, closing remarks were given by **Matt Phillips (President of the Colonial Virginia Chapter ASSP)**. He also shared briefly about his educational and career backgrounds. Pizzas, soft drinks, light snacks and deserts were provided during the course of the event courtesy of *VCU Safety and Risk Management*. The VCU Safety and Risk Management and ASSP members were very active and engaged with the students and the students asked relevant questions pertinent to their aspiring professional careers. A calendar of upcoming events by the colonial Virginia chapter ASSP can be found at [colonialva.assp.org](http://colonialva.assp.org)

## **E. YCC PARTICIPATED IN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT PFIZER**

On Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the YCC (Julian Bobb and Mrinmoy Das) participated (10 AM – 12 PM) in the Annual Earth Day Celebration Event hosted by Pfizer Consumer Healthcare (Richmond, VA). This event was conducted in accordance with Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) with the ACS Theme – “Take Note: The Chemistry of Paper”. The YCC in collaboration with the department of chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) presented a poster presentation to Pfizer colleagues about the manufacturing process of paper, its impact on the environment, and about solutions to promote sustainability. We also provided them with information pertinent to the ACS 2019 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest for kindergarteners to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **F. ACS VA CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA**

On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (10:00 AM – 4:00 PM), the American Chemical Society (ACS) Virginia Section sponsored activities for guests in the Rotunda of the Science Museum of Virginia in accordance with Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW). Two demonstrations were conducted: (1) Nature Print Paper and (2) Look-alike Liquids, along with a poster presentation on the environmental impact of paper. About 421 guests attended the Earth Week Celebration event and 13 volunteers were leveraged for the ACS activities. The volunteers encompassed undergraduate chemistry students from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and George Mason University, graduate chemistry students from VCU, a chemist from Afton Chemical, a professor from Virginia Union University, and a recently retired chemist from Boehringer Ingelheim. About 6 out of the 13 volunteers are ACS members. Volunteers helped with welcoming guests, and assisted with the demonstrations & the 2019 CCEW illustrated poem contest.

## **G. MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP MEETING**

The YCC (Julian Bobb and Hiran Kiriarachchi), WCC (Stacey Sank), and Joseph Pompano met at Virginia Commonwealth University to initiate planning of a management workshop. The objective of the workshop is to provide leadership training in particularly for new managers in both the academic and industrial fields. The planning of the event was going to be a bigger undertaking than we had expected. As an alternative, Joe found a workshop Fred Pryor Seminars does called *A Crash Course for the First-Time Manager or Supervisor*. The course is at the Hyatt Place Richmond Airport on July 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm. Contact Joe for more information.

## **H. ACS Virginia Mentorship Program**

We have a total of 15 Mentors that will participate in the Mentorship Program. About 4 of them are continuing from last year along with 11 new mentors (2 are Retired). Company representations are: Altria Client Services, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Contraline, Inc., Evonik Corporation, p-delta Corporation, Naval Surface Warfare Center, BASF, and Boehringer Ingelheim.

We will have a total of 16 Mentees that will participate in the program, 4 of which are continuing from last year. The 16 mentees are comprised of undergraduate chemistry students (VCU, VSU, VUU, Longwood, William & Mary, and VT), graduate PhD chemistry students from VCU, along with early career chemists. I have communicated with all of the new mentees regarding the program and about the expectations.

## YCC Mentor Meeting

I am hosting a Mentor Meeting on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (5:00 – 6:00 PM) at Virginia Commonwealth University. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss the mentorship program, expectations, and strategies the YCC can leverage to improve the program.

## YCC Mentee Ice Cream Social

I am also hosting a Mentee Ice Cream Social on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at Gelati Celesti on Boulevard (Richmond) from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. The objective of this social meet up is for the mentees to meet the members of the younger chemists committee along with fellow Virginia chemistry college students and early career chemists.

Mentors and Mentees will be contacted in June to complete a profile whereby they will share more about their educational, research and career experiences, and about themselves. Mentors and Mentees will be paired later in the Summer and they will all get the chance to meet in the Early Fall for a Luncheon.

### I. 2019 Fall Activities

- a. ACS Mentorship Program Luncheon at Virginia Commonwealth University
  - i. Mentors will meet their Mentees
  - ii. Julian will talk about the program and expectations
  - iii. We will do fun activities
- b. Chemistry Trivia Night at Virginia Commonwealth University
  - i. We will co-host with the chemistry undergraduate & graduate student clubs, along with the medicinal chemistry graduate student club on the MCV campus
- c. Tour of Dupont
  - i. For college chemistry students and possibly industry chemists

*I greatly appreciate the YCC Executive Committee and local section members for making all of these events a success. Serving the YCC thus far has been a rewarding experience.*

Sincerely,  
Julian Bobb, YCC Chair