



Newsletter for Senior Chemists

November 2021

Chemistry, Collaborations, Celebrations, and COVID Reflections on the Past and Present



Thanks to the ACS Senior Chemists Committee

From the SCC Chair, Dr. Arlene A. Garrison

I am excited to share this November 2021 issue of the Newsletter for Senior Chemists! The editors have selected outstanding articles written by members of the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC), along with submissions by many other ACS members. If you are involved in an activity that you think would be of interest to senior chemists, please contact Lynn Hartshorn or Adriane Ludwick by sending an email to seniorchemists@acs.org.

SCC held several successful events associated with the ACS 2021 Fall Meeting in Atlanta. The Planning for Retirement Symposium was held in a hybrid format with both in-person and online participants. The Coffee Social Hour Virtual Event on “The Post-COVID Chemistry Economy & DEIR (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect) and Program Updates” was held on August 31.

SCC, the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), the Undergraduate Students Advisory Board, and the Division of Business Development and Management (BMGT) co-hosted a “Networking with Chemistry Professionals & Students” virtual event on September 12. As with prior networking events, breakout discussions addressed careers in academia, industry, and government. With the additional co-sponsor, a breakout discussion for students interested in career opportunities in other areas such as small business was added. SCC also co-sponsored several additional symposia.

In the July 2021 newsletter, I described the SCC fundraising campaign for the ACS Scholars Program, and the SCC program in collaboration with National Chemistry Week to encourage “Great Connections” between senior chemists and schools. During the August 31 webinar, SCC announced an additional mini-grant program to support DEIR initiatives. These three initiatives are aligned with ACS’s Core Values and its new diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect goal. Details are available on the [Senior Chemists webpage](#) and the [Senior Chemists on the Move](#) section of the ACS Network.

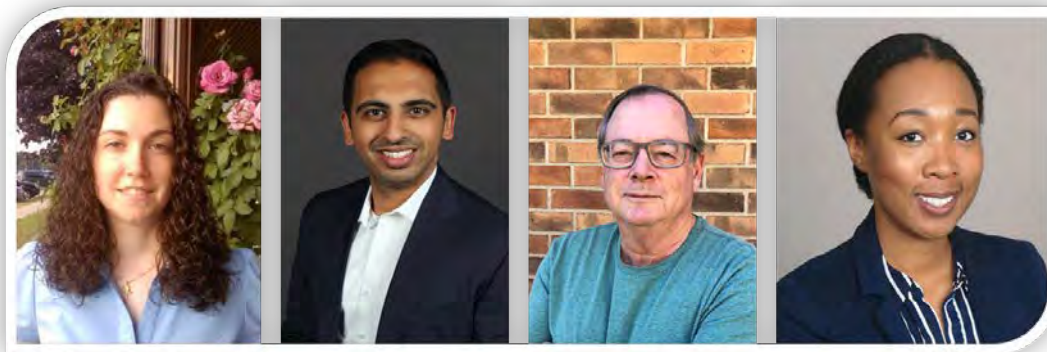
For three years, I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Senior Chemists Committee and this will be the last newsletter published under my leadership. My time on the committee has been a whirlwind. My SCC colleagues are incredibly dedicated and focused on having an impact. They continue to move ahead on goals established in the SCC Strategic Plan and have added new goals and initiatives in response to the challenges of the last two years. A robust network of SCC groups associated with local sections is developing. Nearly all the ACS Regional Meetings are now hosting an event targeted to seniors. My thanks to the senior chemists on SCC, those on the local section and regional meetings committees, and those doing work individually to advance important ACS goals.

The Spring 2022 National meeting will include a symposium in memory of SCC committee member Jane Veazey Thomas (1940-2021) who recently passed away. In addition to SCC, Jane served on the ACS Committees on Constitution and Bylaws, and Membership Affairs. She was an active member of the ACS Division of Energy and Fuels and Division of Small Chemical Businesses.

I also want to mention those SCC members who will complete their service on the committee at the end of 2021. During the August committee meeting, we recognized James Chao, Susan Fahrenholtz, Herbert Golinkin, and Sidney White, Jr. Committee members who completed service in 2020, Raymond Anderson, Ronald Archer, Roger Bartholomew, Donald Clarke, and Edel Wasserman were also recognized following a delay due to the pandemic.

Thanks to all the ACS senior chemists for your leadership in the Society.

Senior Chemists Working Across the ACS



Senior and Younger Chemists Partner Again to Engage Students

The Senior Chemists Committee continues its mission to build bridges between young and experienced chemists. SCC and the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) established a Co-Mentorship Program with 17 SCC and YCC members. SCC partnered again with YCC on a virtual networking event for chemistry professionals and undergraduates that was held on September 12 with close to 100 attendees, including international participants. Kelley Cafilin, Lead Analytical Chemist in the Explosives Research Branch at the United States Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center; Tejas Shah, Research Investigator at Corteva Agriscience; Barry Streusand, Owner of Applied Analytical, Inc.; and Dominique Williams, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Richmond were panelists and led breakout discussions on careers in academia, industry, government, and small businesses. The first 25 registrants who participated in the event received a special frozen treat from Cold Stone Creamery. Congratulations to them all!

Embracing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect - Let's Get Involved

In response to suggestions from its 2020 webinar "Senior Chemists Action Agenda to Address Systemic Racism", the SCC initiated new opportunities to advance the ACS strategic goal and Core Value on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect. In May, SCC collaborated with the Office of Philanthropy and released its "[Campaign to Support the ACS Scholars Program](#)" to a broader audience of ACS members. Under the ACS Scholars Program, African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian students enrolled in chemical science programs are eligible to compete to receive up to \$5,000/year in renewable college scholarships. Many of the 3,500 participants in this program now have leading roles in industry, academia, and government like former ACS Scholar [Chyree Batton](#), a chemist at SC Johnson. Please support tomorrow's chemistry leaders. [DONATE!](#)

SCC has partnered with the ACS National Chemistry Week team and the ACS Education Division on a "[Great Connections](#)" program established to develop activities for kids to get them "chemistry friendly" and to inspire underrepresented students in grades 3-5 to pursue science. A [Slow the Glow video](#) was created and posted on the ACS website along with downloadable materials for doing a hands-on activity.

And lastly, SCC piloted a new **SCC DEIR Grant Program** in September for a technical division, international chapter, or any official ACS entity (other than a local section) to support the advancement of the ACS goal. The project had to be led by a senior ACS member (i.e., over 50 years in age) and could be up to \$500. The deadline to submit applications was October 29; five of the six applications received were funded.



The Transition from Productivity to Fulfillment: Former ACS CEO, Madeleine Jacobs, shares her retirement story

Originally Published in [ACS Industry Matters](#), September 16, 2021

Madeleine Jacobs was Executive Director and CEO of the American Chemical Society for more than 11 years, from January 2004 to February 2015. Jacobs served 10 years as Managing Editor (1993-95) and Editor-in-Chief (1995-2003) of Chemical and Engineering News (C&EN), where she also worked early in her career (1969-72).

After retiring from ACS, she was president of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (2015-2016). Her career includes stints at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (1972-74), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (1974-79), and the Smithsonian Institution, where she was chief science writer (1979-87) and director of the Office of Public Affairs (1987-93).

Jacobs received a BS in chemistry from George Washington University (GWU) in 1968 and an honorary Doctor of Science from GWU in 2003. She is a member of numerous nonprofit boards and committees, including the GW Board of Trustees, and has received awards for her work in promoting diversity, gender equality, and careers in science, technology, education, and mathematics, as well as for science writing. She has authored more than 300 editorials and major articles in C&EN, and other articles have appeared in *Physics Today*, *Smithsonian*, *Smithsonian News Service*, and other publications.

She is the recipient of 21 named lectureships at U.S. universities and companies. Since 2017, she has been President of Strategic Science, a consulting firm that provides organizational consulting, project design and management, executive coaching, and communication and writing services for scientific institutions and companies, professional societies, and associations. [READ MORE](#)



Madeleine Jacobs and Beau, her standard poodle

Senior Chemists' Stories—All Things Chemistry!

Chemistry Outreach Through Historic Dairy Products Reenactments

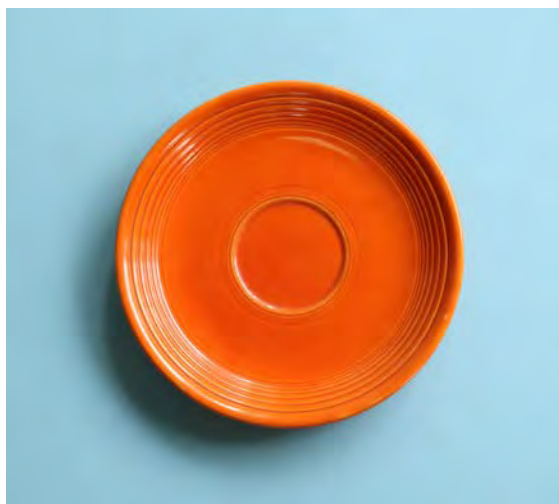
By Frank Butwin, SCC Member

Frank Butwin earned his BS in Chemistry from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and a MS in Chemistry from Indiana State University. He worked at a variety of industrial companies in polymer (mostly thermoset) composites, R&D, and product development. He lives in Perrysburg, Ohio and has several retirement activities: Toledo Local Section ACS Councilor and Associate Member of SCC, local history boards, living history reenactor, birding groups, environmental groups, and a volunteer park naturalist.

As professional chemists, we often feel a responsibility to assist the public in understanding and appreciating chemistry and its benefits to society. For many of us, this happens later in our careers or after retirement, when we have a little more time and want to give back to our communities. One of the ways that I am planning to participate in outreaching the concepts and practicalities of chemistry to people in the communities near where I live is to reenact a practitioner of dairy products, namely by making butter in churns like those used 120 to 220 years ago. This will be done at historic reenactment festivals and fairs. Samples of fresh butter and buttermilk will be offered to those that want to taste it. Since butter churning takes about half an hour, this gives me time to go into the chemistry of what is actually happening to coagulate the fat into butter and why it wants to separate from the buttermilk. The components of the products can be explained with the aid of side panels depicting the chemical names and structures of the components. Most of the time, I use a square glass container with a crank on top of the screw-on metal lid that turns the baffles. These churns were made as far back as 1906 by the Dazey Butter Churn Company in St. Louis, MO. At the festivals, the children always like to have their hand at turning the crank, at least for a few minutes. Ceramic and wooden churns go back for centuries and can be used when depicting the 1800 era, which I like to do the most.

Of course, it all starts with milk. Most milk, as we know it, comes from cows. There are many types of cows and in 1800 the variety used was much more than now. And, this can make a difference in the milk, along with what the cows eat and the season of the year. Milk from other

animals, such as goats, were also used. In Ohio, and presumably throughout the U.S., milk and cream are currently regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance of 2019, and part 131 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These regulations list all the percent ranges of ingredients to meet the standards. I am hoping that in future dairy presentations that people come away with a sense of the importance that chemistry plays in dairy products.



Fiestaware Fiasco

by Allen A. Denio

Allen Denio earned his first two chemistry degrees at what is now the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. He completed his PhD in Physical Chemistry at the University of New Hampshire. His industrial experience was obtained at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan and at Dupont in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1964, he joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-EC).

My interest in pottery goes back many years. Thus, at UW-EC I soon introduced myself to Prof. Richard Joslin who taught ceramic courses in the Art Department. He was a very talented potter and soon we were talking about the chemistry of ceramic glazes. He provided a tour of the facility, and I noticed a glass jar with a label that said uranium oxide! That was quite a shock.

Joslin explained that it was used in glazes to obtain certain colors in the yellow to orange spectrum. I reminded him of its radioactivity due to uranium and proposed that we place it in the remote storage area of our Chemistry Department. Luckily, he agreed! It is probably still there.

At some point, I read about a brand of everyday china called Fiestaware, produced by the Homer Laughlin China Co. of Newell, West Virginia. It was produced in a range of colors and was quite popular.

In 1936, the company started producing an impressive orange colored glaze using uranium oxide. What were they thinking? Obviously, not about radioactive decay.

In 1943, all uranium sources were taken over by the military. The atomic bomb project had priority over dinnerware. In 1959, the company restarted making this glaze, but with “depleted” uranium which did not contain much of the U-235 isotope. This continued for about ten years. In 1969, the company introduced a new color called “Ironstone,” still using depleted uranium. This ended in 1973. At that point, the hazard of the radioactive glaze ended production.

The U-238 isotope is quite stable with a half-life of 4.5 billion years, emitting alpha particles. The

resulting decay product is thorium, (^{234}Th). This decays more rapidly ($t_{1/2} = 24.1$ days) with the emission of beta particles and gamma rays. The product is Pa-234 which also emits beta particles and gamma rays, ($t_{1/2} = 1.17$ minutes). The decay process ends eventually with the formation of lead (Pb-206). Thus, Fiestaware glazes containing uranium are indeed hazardous to your health.

I purchased an orange saucer of Fiestaware in an antique store in Eau Claire. I used it in General Chemistry classes when discussing radioactivity. The Geiger Counter clearly pointed out the danger. After one class, a student mentioned that his grandmother had a complete set of this color of Fiestaware in her dining room! I suggested that he share this information with her. I hope it went to a remote storage area.

It is interesting that the production of the "Ironstone" glaze ended in 1973. I suspect this is related to the formation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission by Congress on October 24, 1972.

The Study of Chemistry as a Tool for Skillful Empowerment

By Joshua A. Obaleye and Samson O. Owalude, Department of Chemistry, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

Joshua Obaleye obtained his BS in Chemistry at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee in 1977 and his PhD in Radiation and Inorganic Chemistry at Texas W. University, Denton, TX in 1981. He now works at the University of Ilorin, in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Professor Obaleye is a new associate member of SCC who lives and works in Nigeria. The following article certainly applies to Nigeria and developing countries but is also relevant to more developed countries such as the United States and Europe.

It is not an understatement but rather an empirical fact that unemployment in our society is high and increasing. There is an upsurge in population density and increasing dependency on artificial intelligence and other labor-saving technologies in industry. These and other factors can act as barriers to gainful employment of significant numbers of working-age people. The resultant implications of this imbalance include heightened anxiety, and fear for their economic and societal future among ordinary citizens of developing countries such as mine.

Scientific and technical advances are functions of a science education - a major area of which is chemistry. Chemistry as a discipline is wide-ranging. It can therefore be said almost, if not all, things in the environment can undergo a possible chemical change. Investigation of such chemical effects could result in acceptable and human-friendly innovation. In addition, various skills can be derived from the study of chemistry which enable chemistry graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Aside from the multifaceted career options that chemistry affords, studying the course also instills the essential skills needed to flourish in other chosen careers. The chemist learns to organize and deliver presentations, communicate knowledge to others, write a report, develop interpersonal skills, collect and analyze data, manage time, and solve problems.

For instance, environmental chemistry training is useful to establish skills in waste management services including the collection, possible treatments where necessary, and proper disposal and/or recycling of waste from homes, offices, and factories. Thus, it is an avenue for young chemists to turn waste to wealth.

The internalized knowledge acquired from color chemistry can be applied to produce dyes of different colors on a large scale for use in production of finished goods such as textiles, paints, and plastics.

Furthermore, skills developed in medicinal chemistry can be applied singly or in combination to synthesis, isolation, purification, quantification, and packaging of many compounds, newly developed or already in existence.

STEM, science, technology, engineering and math, education is aimed at reducing unemployment and poverty to the barest minimum. What does that mean? It means that the spirit of skillful empowerment, which is achievable through education in chemistry among other STEM topics, should be developed starting with secondary school teaching coupled with real life demonstration of the skills attainable from this education. Properly implemented, this program will develop students' interest in empowerment rather than job seeking.

The major employers of chemistry graduates revolve around the chemical and related industries such as agrochemicals, plastics, and polymers, metallurgical, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, and toiletries. As this list implies, there are many empowerment opportunities in chemistry.

In conclusion, the hypothesis that studying chemistry is too unspecialized is "null and void". Chemistry offers you an array of opportunities to be explored in virtually every sector. Thus, chemistry is a place to start and not an endpoint.



Chemistry is for the Birds. Part 11

By Dwight Chasar

In previous installments about this subject, I discussed some of the chemicals that are responsible for the color of bird feathers, bare parts, eyes, etc. These included melanins; carotenoid, porphyrin, pterin, and purine derivatives; and others. In this installment, I bring to your attention chemical elements, compounds and minerals that are not responsible for creating bird color but have lent their names, at least in part, to birds of their colors. The Silvery Tanager, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Copper Pheasant, Plumbeous Kite, Bronzy Hermit, Coal Tit, and Bluish-slate Antshrike are examples of birds that fit these criteria but many more can be found by going to the link: <https://birdsoftheworld.org>. Type in the bird name example I have given or the chemical name itself in the appropriate space and see the bird photo that appears. Even just a partial name of a chemical may show you a number of bird names in the dropdown menu. Just click on one of those bird options and see the photo.

Notes of a Chemical Corps Soldier

By Bill Ramsey

Bill Ramsey received an AB in bacteriology from Indiana University and a PhD in microbiology from the University of Minnesota. Later he attended night law school at the University of Baltimore and subsequently pursued a career and retired as a patent attorney.

“How could you have done it?” This is the reaction I sometimes receive when friends or acquaintances learn of my Army service involving biological weapons (BW) research and development during 1961-63. Some seem to feel the self-evident wrongness of such activity should have caused me to forestall my participation. However, it is not that simple when considering the facts that my orders and duty were clear.

At Fort Detrick, our motivation stemmed primarily from a number of lines of evidence that the USSR was actively developing BW. It was during the height of the Cold War (the Cuban Missile Crisis was in 1962) and we had no doubt who was the adversary. Our goal was the capacity to respond in kind to a first use of BW by the Soviets. We saw precedence in this approach by the absence of chemical weapons (CW) use during World War II. The principal combatants were prepared to use CW in retaliation, but none appeared willing to be the first.

The United Kingdom was prepared to use mustard gas on the beaches in the event of sea-borne invasion, apparently feeling the seriousness of such a situation would justify the stigma of first use. U.S. preparations for chemical warfare were revealed by the release of mustard gas from the Liberty Ship John Harvey (2000 CW bombs in its cargo) due to being bombed while at port in Brai, Italy. About 600 military and an unknown number of civilians were casualties. The first nerve gas, tabun, was invented in Germany in 1937 and large amounts of nerve agents were weaponized during WWII. We may never know for sure why CW were not used, but it's certainly possible that fear of retaliation in kind was involved.

Public antipathy to CW may be attributed to widespread familiarity with the effects during and after WWI. This led to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which forbade the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in combat.

There were no similar experiences to lead to public distaste for BW which nevertheless were quickly developed. BW were viewed as significantly more dangerous than CW because of the self-propagating nature of microbes which could lead to epidemics and pandemics, perhaps of a unique nature. BW were suggested as a “poor man’s atomic bomb” thus, empowering and emboldening small countries. Finally, the reputation of biomedical research as a benefit to mankind made using it to create BW seem especially corrupt and wrong.

For the current state of BW and CW research, see the Arms Control Association Website: www.armscontrol.org

ChemLuminary Awards 2021 & the ACS History Division

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top left is the ACS logo with the text "ACS Chemistry for Life". At the top center, it says "23rd Annual ChemLuminary Awards". At the top right is the "23rd Annual ChemLuminary Awards" logo. The main video window shows Arlene A. Garrison, with a name tag that reads "Arlene A. Garrison, Chair, Senior Chemists Committee (SCC)". To the right is a chat window with the following messages:

- John Katz: Georgia on my mind, and with a ChemLuminary in hand.
- LaTresse Garrison: Nice work Georgia ICSC!
- Terri Chambers: Congratulations Malaysia International Chapter!
- Sergio Nanita: Congrats Malaysia ICSC!
- Mary Carroll: Congratulations, Malaysia Int'l Chapter!
- Andrea Goldson-Barnaby: Congrats Malaysia
- Rodney Bennett: Way to GO, Malaysia International Chapter! Keep up the excellent work!
- LaTresse Garrison: Congrats Malaysia! A great event.
- John Katz: Congrats to Malasia for your fine work.
- Anna Cavinato: Congrats Puget Sound I.S!!!
- Rodney Bennett: Congratulations Puget Sound IS!
- John Katz: Thanks for looking after our Senior Chemists, Puget Sound.

At the bottom of the chat window is a text input field that says "TYPE MESSAGE HERE".

Congratulations to Puget Sound, Indiana, and Kentucky Lake!

The Senior Chemists Committee co-sponsored senior chemists' events for regional meetings and awarded mini-grants to 18 Local Sections this year. As a result of support provided in 2020, several Local Sections were nominated for the SCC 2021 ChemLuminary Awards. This year, awards were given to three sections. Puget Sound received the award for Best Continuing Senior Chemists Activity within a Local Section. Both the Indiana and Kentucky Lake Local Sections received the award for the Best New Senior Chemists Activity. The event took place virtually once again on October 21 during National Chemistry Week. Arlene Garrison, SCC chair, presented the awards.

ACS Division of the History of Chemistry Centennial, January 1, 2022

By Mary Virginia Orna (maryvirginiaorna@gmail.com), Councilor, Division of the History of Chemistry & SCCMember

While I am not in the habit of citing a Pope to support my remarks, there is one timely statement by Pope Francis that resonates with the purpose of this article: "This is perhaps among the most baffling paradoxes...: in order to progress towards the future, we need the past, we need profound roots." (Address of Pope Francis to the Council of Europe; Strasbourg, November 25, 2014.)

The ACS Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) has these profound roots: on January 1, 2022, it will celebrate its 100th birthday as an ACS Division. Founded by Edgar Fahs Smith (1854-1928) and others, it "grew up" parallel to its "twin," the Division of Chemical Education. Today, HIST has almost 900 members from every sector of the ACS, programs regularly at ACS National Meetings and at many regional meetings, publishes two newsletters per year, and for 43 years has published an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal, the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*. Its publishing record also includes 37 history-related volumes published over the course of the past 60 years that include topics in archaeological chemistry, biography, centennials and other landmark anniversaries, the history of chemical sub-disciplines, chemical entertainment, and the history of chemistry outside of ACS venues.

While many of these activities fulfill HIST's stated mission to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences, HIST also serves as a resource for chemical scientists in general, recognizes past major achievements in the chemical sciences, and interacts with other organizations interested in the history of science.

Two major projects to celebrate its Centennial Year are currently in development:

(1) The Centennial History of HIST: A thorough treatment of what happened before, during its foundation and evolution, and to the present. The project will be open access and published online. Gary Patterson (gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu), the Editor, welcomes contributions. Please send written material, photographs, ephemera, etc. to him and indicate if you wish to author a full or part chapter. A total of 50 chapters are projected.

(2) The *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* is preparing a special Centennial issue in HIST's honor. Guest editor Jeffrey I. Seeman and Editor-in-Chief Carmen Giunta have obtained commitments from recipients of HIST's major awards and current leaders in the history of chemistry to write on the theme, "Novel Insights in the History of Chemistry: Looking Back Yet Mostly Looking Forward". Topics and concepts ripe for exploration, opportunities for interdisciplinary investigations, and new ways of analyzing previously studied topics will be featured. This issue will be open access to all. Members of HIST will receive hard copies.

Readers of the HIST Newsletter are invited to apply as a new member for a year's free membership in the Division, including the Bulletin. Access

[http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/HIST1%20Brochure\(ACS\)rv2020.pdt](http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/HIST1%20Brochure(ACS)rv2020.pdt), fill out and write on the form "HIST Centennial Offer." Email it to Vera V. Mainz, mainz@illinois.edu, or email Vera directly to apply. The offer is limited to 50 applications.

Reflections of the Past and Present



A Very Long Day: Remembering 9/11/2001

By Valerie Kuck

Val Kuck earned a BA degree in Chemistry from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana and a MS degree at Purdue University. She worked at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, NJ for 34 years doing research on materials. She has chaired five national ACS committees and was on the ACS Board of Directors. She is now a member and secretary of the Senior Chemists Committee.

I could not believe it as I heard the words "The flight to Newark has been delayed". I was at the St. Louis Airport on my way back to Newark Airport in New Jersey where my husband, Mark, would pick me up. I wandered over to a TV screen to get the latest news and heard the announcer state that a small plane had flown into one of the World Trade Towers in New York City. I knew that the towers were gigantic and dominated the lower tip of the Manhattan skyline. I thought immediately that this was not an accident! I decided to contact Mark and let him know that my plane had been delayed.

Incredibly, my call did not go through, instead I heard a tape state that all lines were busy. Repeated calls to Mark did not go through. The TV screen showed that it was a large commercial plane had hit a Tower. Within a few minutes a second plane hit the other Twin Tower. It was hard to believe that was happening.

I finally got a hold of Mark, and he said that a plane had just crashed into the Pentagon. Mark was obviously shaken by the events and his voice cracked as he lamented that "We were under attack". From our house he had a clear view of the NYC skyline and could see the smoke rising from the Towers. He could clearly see the devastation. There were wild estimates on the death toll. Evil had come to our shores!

Since all rental cars at the airport were taken, I had to come up with a plan. First things first, I needed to retrieve my luggage. I went down to the luggage area and to my shock it was already filled with many people. Mounds of luggage were growing, and the numbers of people were constantly increasing. What was happening! Although the area was full of people there was no pushing or shoving and people spoke softly. Finally, it was announced they were going to collect the luggage into piles according to their destination. I eventually learned that the government had grounded all planes. Now I knew why there were so many people! After walking for hours between the two piles of luggage bound for Newark, I got my bag.

I decided I to try catching a train home. The taxi line was at least a hundred people long. After

arriving at the train station, I requested a seat on any train going to the Northeast. This was not the time to be picky! The young man behind the counter stood as tall as he could and replied in his most official voice, "By the power of the President of the United States all trains, buses, and planes are not allowed to cross the Mississippi River". I eventually found a safe place to stay that night and caught a bus to Columbus, Ohio where Mark's bother lived. Mark arrived fifteen minutes after me. It was a very long day-that day and for years to past.



Has COVID-19 changed your life permanently? (Part 1)

By Lynn Hartshorn, SCC member and co-editor of the SCC Newsletter

Obviously, all our lives were completely changed during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We thought that it was finished, but now with new variants it is back with us again for a while. We hope that before too long we will be back to "normal". Will the new "normal" be different from before? I have been pondering the question "Has COVID-19 changed your life permanently" and asked a few colleagues and friends. Here is a summary of their replies. I am sure that there are many other ways that the Pandemic has permanently changed lives, and I plan to write Part 2 of this article in the next Newsletter. So please send any additions, comments, or thoughts you have to Seniorchemists@acs.org.

1. People who lost loved ones to the Pandemic will be affected forever.
2. Some people who became infected but survived will have long-lasting health issues.
3. Some people postponed or cancelled their usual medical check-ups and procedures; this may affect their health.
4. Retirement plans and schedules were changed because people lost their jobs, or their jobs changed.
5. We may well continue to use masks and disinfectant for a few years.
6. We will avoid and maintain social distance from anyone who appears to have flu-like symptoms.
7. Some of us may continue to avoid crowded situations.
8. Goodbyes to friends and family are now lengthy and have extra hugs.
9. We have all become used to inter-acting with family and friends on "Zoom" and similar online platforms, and this may continue.
10. This may have the effect of increasing communication with some friends and family whom we rarely saw.
11. Many people will continue to work from home, rather than going to the office, at least

11. Many people will continue to work from home, rather than going to the office, at least some of the time.
12. This may influence where people choose to live.
13. Many of us will continue to shop on-line rather than in person.
14. The Labor Market has changed.



Get a Free Kit to Update Your Will

If you've been putting off the task of creating or [updating](#) your will, there's no better time than now to check this off your list. It's inexpensive and simpler than you might suspect, and by visiting the [wills and living trusts page](#) on the [ACS legacy planning website](#), you can access a [free planning kit](#). You can also learn how to include ACS in your estate plans in as little as one sentence. This type of donation to ACS helps ensure that we carry out our [mission](#) for years to come. For more information, please contact Mary Bet Dobson, CAP® at 202-872-4094 or PlannedGifts@acs.org.



In Memory of Dr. Thomas R. Beattie - Senior Chemists Chair (2016-2018)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the recent passing of long-time ACS member and Immediate-Past Chair of SCC, Dr. Thomas R. Beattie, 1940-2021.

Tom was a postdoctoral Fellow at MIT with Professor George Büchi, working in the area of natural product synthesis, organic photochemistry, and synthetic methods development. He received a PhD degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Physical Organic Chemistry, and a DSc degree from the University of Edinburgh in Physical Organic Chemistry.

and a BS degree in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. He authored and/or coauthored 23 patents and 16 technical publications. He was a biopharmaceutical consultant and winner of the 2020 Shirley B. Radding Award, presented annually by the ACS Silicon Valley Section. Tom served as a Councilor for the San Diego Section since 2004. He served on the Silver Circle Task Force and championed the proposal to make this group an official ACS Committee, which is now the Senior Chemists Committee. Tom was chair of SCC from 2016-2018.

Tom is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, their daughters Pat Beattie of Kailua, HI and Kathy Porter of Fanwood, NJ, son Tom Beattie of Old Beth Page, NY, and six grandchildren. If you wish to give a memorial gift in his honor, his family has asked that donations be made to the [ACS Scholars Program](#) or [Project SEED](#).

SENIOR CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

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