

# Portland Section Newsletter

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April 2021

## Letter from Chair Andrew Baggett

*Andrew Baggett*

Dear Members of the Portland Local ACS Section, I'm pleased to begin service this year in my role as Chair. I am eagerly looking forward to the Section resuming in-person dinner + presentation meetings as soon as is feasible—likely either mid/late Fall 2021 or Winter/Spring 2022. In the meantime my main goal is to schedule and advertise meaningful remote lectures and social events. An exciting result of this focus on remote events has been a strengthening of relationships between local sections up and down the West Coast, and among the California, Puget Sound, Oregon, and Portland sections, we have booked some great presentations that can be attended from any reasonable geographical location.

I'm looking forward to continuing the work our Section has been doing to promote diversity, inclusion, and respect across all disciplines of chemistry and encourage outreach to students and the public. Our Section hopes to welcome you to resumed in-person events as soon as we can and celebrate excellent science at Local Section meetings and Award symposia and events.

-Andrew Baggett

## Update: Portland ACS Virtual Events

- Chemistry Olympiad exams were last weekend, proctored by Chemistry Olympiad coordinator Dr. Armando Herbelin.
- During March Younger Chemists (YCC chair [Quentin Wilebski](#)) and Women Chemists (WCC chair [Hannah Hefely](#)) have held several social events.
- Chair Andrew Baggett has scheduled several inter-section

activities including a diversity event 4/1 presented by Prof. Munira Khalil; a seminar featuring ACS President-Elect Dr Angela Wilson on Tuesday, May 11 from 5-6 p.m. Pacific; and a seminar on Water Pollution mitigation Tuesday, April 6 from 12:00 - 1:00 Pacific.

- March was Women's History Month and the Portland and Richland Section collaborated to present several events.
- WCC held a résumé review event the first weekend in March.
- The upcoming [ACS 2021 Spring Meeting](#) begins Monday April 5 and continues through Saturday April 10.
- The Northwest Science virtual Expo begins April 2 and continues through April 9. The Portland Section sponsors two Special Awards, the Portland Section Award and the PICA Award, both including a \$250 cash award.
- [Outstanding high school chemistry student certificates](#) helps high school teachers recognize their outstanding chemistry students. It continues until the end of May.

## Regional Women In Science honored by Portland and Richland sections

Women's History Month concluded Friday March 25, 2021 with the Portland and Richland sections presenting a virtual networking and social hour recognizing 8 women in the two sections. The 4 women featured are the 4 honorees within the Portland section. Their biographies follow.

Andrew Baggett, Chair  
Marcie Merritt, Past Chair  
Elaine Nam, Secretary

Dave Reingold, Treasurer  
Angela Hoffman, Councilor  
Jim Tung, Councilor

Warren Ford, Alt. Councilor  
Marcie Merritt, Alt. Councilor  
Jean Eames, Director At Large

Hannah Hefely, WCC Chair  
Quentin Wilebski, YCC Chair  
Martha Dibblee, Sr. Chemists Chair



*Jacquie Van Hoomissen*

### **Jacquie Van Hoomissen**

Jacqueline Van Hoomissen, PH.D. is the Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Professor of Biology at the University of Portland. In addition, she serves as the Director of the College of Arts and Science's Summer Undergraduate Research program, Co-Director of the Neuroscience Minor, and secretary of the Board of Directors of the international Human Anatomy and Physiology Society. She is a member of the Northwest Regional Network Administrator Alliance on an NSF ASCEND grant to advance mid-career STEM faculty careers and the Portland Metro Stem Partnership's Action Learning Team examining diversity, equity, and inclusion in K-12 education. Jacquie's passion has always been excellence in education; finding ways to open doors and reduce barriers for success for all students and faculty. Whether it is securing national funding from NSF for K-12 science outreach programs to the North Portland community culminating in the annual Family Science Night event, to mentoring students in neuroscience research, or partnering with colleagues to redesign curricula with equity and inclusion in mind, Jacquie has been a collaborative leader with positive impacts on the communities around her. In 2018 she was awarded the Oregon Academy of Sciences Outstanding Educator in Higher Education award for dedication to STEM education excellence as recognition of her support of STEM education.



*Stephanie Salomone*

### **Dr. Stephanie Salomone**

Stephanie Anne Salomone earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics from UCLA in 2005, where she studied harmonic analysis. She earned an MA in Mathematics from Boston College in 1999, and a BA in Mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1997. She joined the faculty at the University of Portland in 2005, where she currently

serves as Associate Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Director of the STEM Education and Outreach Center at UP. She is the PI on the current NSF IUSE:EHR REFLECT program (NSF #1710735) and has managed a combined \$1.6 million as the PI on a subaward of the Western Regional Noyce Alliance grant (NSF #1745263) and, from 2013-2019, as PI of the NSF Noyce Scholars and Interns Program at UP (NSF #1240040). She is on the Board of Directors for Saturday Academy, a 501c3 in Portland Oregon whose mission is to engage children in learning with sufficient depth, particularly in STEM, so that they will become life-long learners. She is on sabbatical for the 2020-2021 academic year, working for the Portland Metro STEM Partnership, one of 13 STEM Hubs in Oregon, focusing on professional development for K-5 math teachers. She has worked on PD projects for in-service teachers, including appointments with the Central California Mathematics Project (CSU-Stanislaus) and the UCLA Math Program for Teachers. She was trained in using inquiry-based learning in the mathematics classroom in 2006 (funded by EAF), and was an IBL faculty facilitator with the NSF PRODUCT grant. Dr. Salomone is the recipient of UP's 2009 Outstanding Teaching Award and the recipient of the 2019 Oregon Academy of Sciences Outstanding Educator in STEM Higher Education Award. She is a knitter and baker who resides in Portland OR with her husband, three sons, and two kittens.



*Angela Hoffman*

### **Dr. Angela Hoffman**

Angela Hoffman is a 37-yr member of the Society, a Society Fellow (2013), Fellow of AAAS since 2006, and Professor of Chemistry at University of Portland. She is the Portland Section's representative on the NoR-Board, which presents the annual Northwest Regional Meetings (NORMs). A past Chair of the Portland Section, Angela has been Councilor for the Portland Section

since 2009 and prior to that was Alternate Councilor from 2000 through 2008. She has been a SEED Mentor for 18 years and is National Chemistry Week Chair and poster coordinator. She also is the advisor to the UP Student ACS Chapter. In 2014, she was recipient of the Oregon Academy of Science "Outstanding Teacher in Science and Mathematics: Higher Education"

Angela and her undergraduate research students are looking for small organic molecules that haven't been described yet and that show biological activity. Their focus is on the discovery of natural compounds made by plants, soil bacteria and fungi that live inside of healthy plant cells. Current projects include the search for antibiotics made by soil bacteria (actinomycetes) from soil found in or near 2,000-year-old graves at Pollentia, an archaeological site at a Roman-era village on the Balearic Island of Mallorca. They also study compounds made by plants for possible drug leads, natural herbicides and natural pesticides.



Marcie Merritt

### Marcie Merritt

Marcie has been an ACS Member for 25 years, filling roles of Portland Section Chair, Diversity Chair, Membership Chair, and spearheading section collaborations in local area STEM groups to increase Section resources, membership, and visibility. She has assisted others with writing ACS funded grants, preparing teachers'

workshops, and helped students with writing grants to attend ACS meetings and STEM workshops.

Through her Boeing Volunteer Match funds Marcie has helped fund Project SEED students, partnered with STEM Like A Girl, and worked with the PSU LSCAMP and Women in STEM PDX for career negotiating. Marcie worked with the Oregon DEQ and School House Supplies to put together science kits for local area schoolteachers and for students to work on at home. In 2021, she has worked with volunteers and students to go into the community and explain the chemistry behind hand sanitizers and has reached out to underprivileged communities and Tribal leaders to deliver hand sanitizers, clothing, and over 29,000 3D printed face shield parts.

In 2019, Marcie received the ACS NW Region E Ann Nalley Award. She is a member of the national ACS Chemists with Disability Committee. All this has been possible because ACS Grants have helped with collaborations and community outreach.

## Scholarships

The Portland Section has been supporting undergraduate chemistry students since 1968. The Section recognizes outstanding junior chemistry majors with scholarship awards to support their senior year studies at these institutions. Pre-medical students are excluded from Scholarship consideration. The Portland Section was chartered in 1961.

In 2021, the Portland Section Executive Committee established the Tom Dunne-James Currie Scholarship, with specific criteria to recognize underrepresented students. Two students were awarded this \$3500 scholarship in 2021.

A virtual Awards Ceremony is being held on Monday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the Section's 2021 Scholarship Recipients. The Tom Dunne and James Currie scholarships are awarded to **Nareg Kedjejian** of Reed College and to **Maria Lopez** of George Fox University. The James G. Anderson scholarship is awarded to **Trine Quady** of Portland State University; the Richard Van Santen scholarship is awarded to **Emily McLaughlin Sta. Maria** of Reed College; and the Harold Zeh scholarship is awarded to **Morgan Bashore** of Lewis & Clark College. The Scholarship [flyer](#) describes the Portland Section scholarship program and lists all recipients of Portland Section scholarships.

## Northwest Science Expo Portland Section Special Awards winners

The Northwest Science Expo is the state-level science research competition for Oregon. It is affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Fair and the Broadcom MASTERS. For the 2021 Northwest Science Expo the fair is fully virtual. Students create a video presentation and digital poster/slide deck; project forms and the research plan are uploaded and shared using a Google folder.

The Portland Section sponsors two Northwest Science Expo (NWSE) Special Awards: the Portland Section Award is presented to the Outstanding Chemistry Project, and the Portland Industrial Chemists Association (PICA) Award is presented to an Outstanding Applied or Practical Chemistry Project by a Junior or Senior. **Nayan Murthy**, Catlin Gabel School, received the PICA award for his project entitled *Sustainable Fabrication of Transparent Displays Using Nickel-Coated Copper Nanomesh*; **Aditi Bhaskar** of Wilsonville High School received the Portland Section Award for her project entitled *Detection of Nitrogen Levels in Sample Using Novel Method*. Both winners receive a cash award of \$250 and a certificate.