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TRIAD CHEMICAL TIMES



Central North Carolina Section American Chemical Society

October Local Section Meeting

When: Thursday, October 29, 2026
Where: Wyndham Hotel (415 S Swing Road, Greensboro; across the street from Syngenta), Jamestown Room
Social/Meal: 6:30 pm
Presentation: 7:15 pm

Dr Greg Grant: Chemistry in the American Civil War: A Heterogeneous Mixture of People, Places, and Things

RSVP to CNCACS01@gmail.com

Save the date: CNC-ACS Holiday Banquet, December 3rd from 6 pm-9 pm (Details to follow)

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CNC-ACS Officers

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	Chair Elect	Open
Dr. Brian Kinsella	Treasurer	brian.kinsella@syngenta.com

CNC-ACS Website: https://cnc-acs.org/

Newsletter Editor: Bill Eberle bill.eberle@syngenta.com

October Local Section Meeting



Title: **Chemistry in the American Civil War: A Heterogeneous Mixture of People, Places, and Things**

Biography:

Greg Grant was a member of the Chemistry Faculty at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) for 32 years, serving the last 20 years as Irvine Grote Professor of Chemistry. A native of Atlanta, he received both his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry at Georgia Tech and began his academic career at Spelman College. His research interests focused on the coordination chemistry of macrocyclic thioethers. During his time at UTC, he worked with 68 undergraduate research students as well as four postdoctoral associates, all of whom went on to subsequent careers at academic institutions. In 2011, he received the ACS National Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution. Since retiring from UTC in 2012, he has volunteered for the National Park Service at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Park, assisting park rangers with programs as well as leading hikes and paddling programs that focus on the rich history of the area. Grant and his wife, Paula Haynes, along with their cats, live in Chattanooga.

Abstract:

The American Civil War is often described as the first modern war because a number of technologies, such as railroads and telegraphy, which emerged during the Industrial Revolution, were employed on a large military scale. In this talk, I will describe how several chemical materials were modified and developed, and subsequently used in the fighting during the Civil War. Some of these materials include copper, iron, potassium nitrate, the Daniell cell, and mercury fulminate. The innovative and novel wartime roles of famous chemists like Eli Lilly and George Washington Rains will also be highlighted.



Honoring our 50 and 60 year members

Congratulations to our 50 and 60 year members who celebrated their anniversaries in 2025 and in 2026

2025 50 year members

- Mr Michael Scott
- Mr. Gary Dull
- Mr Paul Weller
- Mr John Tzavaras
- Dr Terrence Nile
- Mr Riley Davis
- Mr Thomas Conally

2025 60 year members

- Dr Robert Simon
- Mr Arnulf Mohar
- Mr James Nottke
- Mr David Gleeson
- Dr Wid Painter
- Dr Stephen Turner

2026 50 year members

- Mr Ed Smith
- Dr Robert Bruce Banks
- Dr Jerry Walsh

2026 60 year members

- Dr Mary Stowe
- Mr George Hellwig
- Dr Eugene Grimley III
- Dr Joseph Mitchener

Ralph May, former CNC-ACS Chair



Ralph Douglas May, 74, of Kernersville passed away September 28, 2026. He was born October 10, 1951, in Niskayuna, NY to the late George Walter May and Virginia (Wernlund) May. He married his wife, Maria (Lola) Aurora May of 50 years, on June 19, 1976.

Ralph grew up in Connecticut, attended American International College in Springfield Massachusetts, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 1973. During his career he worked at Pfizer Chemical Division, Morflex Chemical, IRIX and GE Healthcare. Ralph developed and controlled analytical testing, worked on several patents and was awarded 3, helped to develop new products and file EPA registrations, and helped to implement both EPA and FDA Regulations.

Volunteering was very important to Ralph. Not only did it help others, but it provided value to his life. He spent much of his life volunteering with the Boy Scouts as well as volunteering with other various organizations and donating blood. He was a member of and provided leadership to the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Quality.

Ralph was a lifelong fitness enthusiast, regularly running, biking, walking and swimming, even running a marathon before he turned 50. He could often be found hiking and listening to the sounds of nature all over the Piedmont of North Carolina.

Ralph was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife and two children: Kelly May Suttles (John, Claire, Ella) and Brian May (Renee, George, Lyla); his brother and sister: Duncan May and Pam May; and his many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bruce May.

The family will receive friends at Pierce-Jefferson Funeral Home, 213 W. Mountain St Kernersville NC 27284 from 12:00PM-12:30PM on Monday, October 5, 2026. A memorial service celebrating Ralphs's life will follow at 12:30PM. Interment will be at 1:00PM at Holy Cross Catholic Church Cemetery, 616 S Cherry St, Kernersville, NC 27284 with a reception following in Salesian Hall.

The family would like to thank the staff from Brookdale Memory Care and Hospice of the Piedmont for the wonderful care they provided for Ralph.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Boy Scout Troop 940, Main Street Methodist Church, 306 S Main St, Kernersville NC 27284.

Dr Robert Yokley named ACS Fellow



Dr Robert Yokley was among 59 individuals who were named 2026 ACS Fellows. ACS Fellows are ACS members who have made outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the chemistry profession, and the society. Robert was honored at the ACS Fellows Ceremony at the Fall ACS Meeting in Chicago.



ACS President, Rigoberto Hernandez, and ACS Past President, Dorothy Phillips, present Robert his award.

ACS On-Campus visited NCA&T at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering

ACS On-Campus visited NCA&T at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering on September 17th. The program featured a keynote address by 2025 President Dr. Dorothy Phillips, insights into the activities and opportunities within the local ACS section, career advancement sessions tailored for students and funding insights designed for faculty. Nearly 200 students and faculty were in attendance.







ACS | Central North Carolina Local Section

The CNC ACS Local Chapter cordially invites you to our

Annual Holiday Party

Join us for a fun filled evening of holiday music, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and desserts (provided by Pepper Moon Catering)



THE BLUE HERON EVENT VENUE

PEPPER MOON CATERING



Date/Time: Thursday Dec 3rd, 6 – 9pm

Location: The Blue Heron Event Venue

4130 Mendenhall Oaks Pkwy, High Point, NC, 27265 (Link to Map)

Join the fun and bring a wrapped gift for the white elephant gift exchange!
(Approximately $25.00)



Please RSVP (ACS Member + 1 Guest) by Nov 27th at:
CNCACS01@gmail.com

CNC-ACS Executive Committee

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