

# TRIAD CHEMICAL TIMES



Central North Carolina Section American Chemical Society

## February Section Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 2026 Local Section Zoom Meeting

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 pm <https://syngenta.zoom.com/j/96953090353>

Title: Dr. Mary Virginia Orna: "March of the Pigments: A Colorful Trek through History"



## Upcoming Events

Local Section Meeting: March 17, 2026 at Guilford College;  
Speaker Dr Dave MacInnes: "Antarctica"

Poster Vendor Night: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering. Details to be released soon.

## CNC-ACS Officers

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[yokleyrobert@gmail.com](mailto:yokleyrobert@gmail.com)

Chair Elect

Open

Dr. Brian Kinsella

Treasurer

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CNC-ACS Website:

<https://cnc-acs.org/>

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## Speaker: Mary Virginia Orna

### “March of the Pigments: A Colorful Trek through History”

**Abstract:** Pigments speak of passion – passion in their creation and in their application. They have graced our world with joy, delight, symbolism, protection, identity and meaning. They pervade every aspect of human life from the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the buildings we build. They color our bodies inside and out. Their march through human history, propelled largely by the concomitant development of chemistry, and the effect they have had on that history is our subject for

this talk which is based upon my book, *March of the Pigments* (Royal Society of Chemistry, 2022).

#### Speaker Bio:

Mary Virginia Orna is Professor of Chemistry, Emerita, College of New Rochelle. She is also former Director of Educational Services at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (now the Science History Institute) and former Publications Coordinator of the *Journal of Chemical Education*. She received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Fordham University. She has lectured and published widely in the areas of color chemistry and archaeological chemistry. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, *Color Research and Application*, *Studies in Conservation*, *Analytical Chemistry*, *Microchemical Journal*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, American Chemical Society monographs, and various other journals. She has also authored numerous book chapters and encyclopedia articles, twelve books and edited ten others. She is an ACS Fellow (2010) and active in several divisions of the American Chemical Society, having served as Chair, Program Chair and Treasurer of the Division of the History of Chemistry. She is currently serving as ACS Alternate Councilor and a member of the ACS Senior Chemists Committee. She served as Treasurer and Member of the Examinations Institute Board of Trustees of the Division of Chemical Education for twelve years. She was also Program Chair for the 14th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education which was held at Clemson University in August, 1996. She is also former Associate Member of the Society Committee on Education, and former member of the Divisional Activities Committee, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions, the Committee on Committees, the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and the Council Policy Committee. She is a 1984 recipient of the Chemical Manufacturing Association's Catalyst Award for excellence in college chemistry teaching, the 1989 CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) New York State Professor of the Year and National Gold Medalist Award, a recipient of the 1989 Merck Innovation Award, the 1996 Western Connecticut ACS Section's Visiting Scientist Award and the 1996 recipient of the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry.

She received the American Chemical Society's 1999 George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, the 2008 Henry Hill Award, the 2009 ACS Award for Volunteer Service, the 2019 ACS Radding Award and the 2021 HIST Award. She has presented plenary lectures and named lectureships on at least a dozen different occasions. She is presently President of "ChemSource, Inc." a major effort in chemistry teacher preparation and enhancement funded by the National Science Foundation, and was P.I. of Dwight D. Eisenhower Title IIA chemical education summer programs at the College of New Rochelle. She was a Fulbright Fellow in Israel (1994-95) where she lectured at The Hebrew University, The Weizmann Institute of Science and Shenkar College of Engineering and Design. She also did research on ancient middle-eastern artifacts in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Israel Museum and the Edelstein Center for the Analysis of Middle Eastern Textiles and Related Artifacts. She spent 1995 in Italy where she studied Italian language and examined Italian medieval manuscripts. As a hobby, she enjoys constructing crossword puzzles and has been a frequent contributor to the Sunday *New York Times*, *SciQuest*, *Clinical Chemistry News*, *American Laboratory*, *Today's Chemist* and other publications. She is an ACS tour speaker and has been an invited lecturer to every part of the United States and many countries in Europe, the Middle East, and the South Pacific. Two of her recent books, *The Lost Elements: The Periodic Table's Shadow Side* (Oxford University Press) and *Science History: A Traveler's Guide* (American Chemical Society and Oxford University Press) have had rave reviews. Her 2013 book, *The Chemical History of Color* (Springer) was recently very favorably reviewed in the *Journal of Chemical Education* in conjunction with the ACS National Chemistry Week theme on color and was rated the most popular book in the Springer series. She has additional books hot off the press: *Sputnik to Smartphones: A Half-Century of Chemistry Education*, *Carl Auer von Welsbach: Chemist, Inventor, Entrepreneur, Chemistry's Role in Food Production and Sustainability: Past and Present*, *Archaeological Chemistry: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of the Past and March of the Pigments*. She is a religious of the Ursulines of the Roman Union. Rev. 01/26.

## Letter from the Chair

To All Members of the Central North Carolina (CNC) Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS),

Welcome to 2026 and the beginning of what the Executive Committee of the CNC hopes will be a productive year filled with exciting meetings and activities.

In March, Professor Dave MacInnes will present a program entitled “Antarctica”. When known, the details of these two events will be posted in the newsletter.

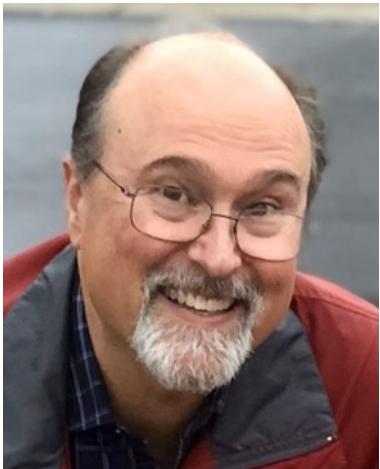
In April, the annual Poster/Vendor Night will be held at the Joint School for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Greensboro. This will also be a good opportunity to learn more about other CNC groups and activities. An evening activity will be conducted at one of the local pubs in May. This will be a great time to meet and network with some of our younger ACS members living and working in the Triad area. The CNC annual picnic will be held in June. Watch for upcoming CNC newsletters to gather all the details needed to participate in these events.

Usually, no CNC activities are planned for July and August thus, the next official CNC meeting will occur in September. Stay tuned for details.

If you have ideas and/or suggestions for future CNC events, please contact the CNC chair at [yokleyrobert@gmail.com](mailto:yokleyrobert@gmail.com). All recommendations are welcome.

I hope 2026 becomes everyone's best year ever.

Robert A. Yokley  
CNC Chair, 2026



## *In Memoriam*

Timothy D. Ballard

1961 - 2025

The Central North Carolina (CNC) ACS Local Section expresses condolences for the loss of long-time member, Tim Ballard.

Tim was a North Carolina native and for many years worked at, then later owned and operated En-Cas Analytical Laboratories in Winston-Salem, NC, which provided analytical chemistry services to the agrochemical and pharmaceutical industries. He was also a dedicated educator and taught chemistry at Wilkes Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston-Salem State University, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro throughout the years. He loved sharing his passion with younger generations and opening their minds to careers in chemistry. Throughout his many years of service in the local ACS section, Tim served in multiple roles, including Chair and Councilor, and volunteered many hours to advance local community projects (Tim regularly volunteered on a local section team that served as ACS Science Coaches, as well as helping with science demonstrations at middle and high schools in the NC Piedmont area).

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made in Tim's name to The American Cancer Society at <https://www.cancer.org/donate.html>, or to Farmington Methodist Church, 1939 Farmington Road, Mocksville, NC 27028.

## Pictures from the 2025 Holiday Banquet (credit: Jill Keith)



## CNC-ACS Executive Committee

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Earth Day	TJ Mayer	<a href="mailto:tjmayer@carringers.com">tjmayer@carringers.com</a>	336-708-0643
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Long Range Planning	<b>OPEN</b>		
National Chemistry Week	<b>OPEN</b>		
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