



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Pittsburgh Section

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## NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 OFFICER POSITIONS

The 2018 Nominating Committee of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society submits the following slate of candidates for Section office for 2018. All persons nominated are members of the society and have agreed to serve if elected. Only members of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society are eligible to vote. The polls will open on November 4. Please note that all ballots must be received by November 14, 2017 at 11:59 PM, when polls close.

### CHAIR-ELECT:

Bradley Davis

Michelle Morgan

David Yaron

### SECRETARY:

Matt Baker

Aswin Garimalla

### SECRETARY-ELECT:

Haitao Liu

### DIRECTOR (3):

Toby Chapman

Heather Juzwa

Logan Miller

### COUNCILOR (1 REGULAR, 2 ALTERNATE):

Michael Mautino

Ali Sezer

Edward Zovinka

## BIOS FOR 2018 OFFICER POSITIONS

### CHAIR-ELECT:

**Bradley Davis** earned his B.S. in Forensic Chemistry at Waynesburg University in 2009 followed by his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Penn State in 2014, which focused on bioanalytical research. He currently is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Waynesburg University where his central courses include Analytical, Instrumental, and Environmental Chemistry. During his time as both an undergraduate and graduate student, Brad focused heavily on science outreach as an active member of Waynesburg's ACS student chapter as well as through Penn State's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC). This dedication to local service continues as he is currently an active member in the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP). Brad participates on various committees including serving as this year's Chair of the SACP Student Affiliates and Co-Chair of the committee responsible for conducting outreach at the Carnegie Science Center for National Chemistry Week. He also enjoys volunteering yearly to serve as a judge for the Pennsylvania Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF). Brad and his wife, Erin, currently reside in the Canonsburg area with their dog, Molly.

**Michelle Morgan** is currently an instructor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to lecturing at Pitt, she was an instructor at Montana State University and a Pharma Services analyst at Almac in Craigavon, Northern Ireland. She completed her B.S. at the University of Pittsburgh where she held several officer positions with the ACS-SA, her M.S. at Colorado State University, and her Ph.D. at Queen's University Belfast.

**David Yaron** is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University. He received a B.S. in Chemistry from Wilkes College and a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Harvard University. He does research in both computational chemistry and chemical education. In his computational work, he uses electronic structure theory to model organic materials and, more recently, is finding ways to use machine learning to improve semiempirical models. In his education work, he is the founder of the ChemCollective, a free digital library of virtual labs, tutorials, and scenario-based learning activities for introductory chemistry. He also recently co-chaired the College Board Committee that undertook a major redesign of the Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry course and exam. His latest hobby is riding a tandem mountain bike with his partner, although so far, the mountains have been limited to hills on the GAP trail and the MS 150 bike ride in the middle of PA.

### SECRETARY:

**Matt Baker** received his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013, where he studied peptide and peptoid synthesis under Dr. W. Seth Horne. He is currently in the fifth year of his PhD in Chemistry under Dr. Kevin Noonan at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is studying phosphine chemistry, conjugated polymer reaction kinetics, and nickel catalysis for applications in Catalyst Transfer Polycondensation. He has served the Pittsburgh ACS as the chair of the Younger Chemists Committee for the past four years, and was the vice president of Pitt's ACS Student association for the senior year of his undergraduate studies. He is currently interested in pursuing a career in science policy.

**Aswin Garimalla** earned his PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from University of Missouri-Columbia, and have worked in multiple post-doctoral positions at Las Cruces, New Mexico, Chicago, and in New York City. Aswin is involved in community service and volunteering. He was a Scientist-Volunteer for the "Magic of Chemistry" Workshop (2006, 2007, and 2008). (Program has received national recognition by the White House, National Science Foundation, American Chemical Society and Girl Scouts of the USA). He has been an American chemical society (ACS) member since 2006. He has participated in several ACS national meetings to present his work. During his stay in Chicago, he has actively participated in the meetings of Chicago ACS local section. He has volunteered to edit and organize the Wikipedia pages of Willard Gibbs Award recipients hosted by the Chicago ACS section. He is grateful to ACS for providing a platform to network with chemists, help during unemployment, and for the career guidance.

## SECRETARY-ELECT:

**Haitao Liu** received his B.S in Chemistry from the University of Science and Technology of China (2001) and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley (2007). From 2007 to 2010, he was a postdoctoral scientist at Columbia University. He joined the chemistry department of the University of Pittsburgh as an assistant professor in 2010 and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2016. At Pitt, his research has focused on DNA nanotechnology and surface properties of carbon materials. He has published over 50 peer reviewed journal papers. He has been an ACS member since 2005 and regularly attends and presents at ACS national and regional meetings. In addition, he also organized symposiums for the 2014 ACS National meeting and the 2014 ACS CERM meeting. In his spare time he enjoys target shooting and building electronic circuits.

## DIRECTOR (2):

**Toby Marshall Chapman.** Member of University of Pittsburgh Chemistry Department 1967-2014, Emeritus 2014-present. Taught at Sichuan University 2-15-6-125. Research Fellow, Harvard Med. School, 1965-67; Ph. D., 1965, Brooklyn Polytech; B. S., 1960, U. of Illinois. Honorary member Phi Eta Sigma and ODK. Previously on Academic Integrity Review Comm.(Ch.), CGSC, Sen. Affirm. Action Comm., member and cochair Sen. Educ. Policies Comm., Univ. Research Council, Faculty Assembly, Sen. Council, Sen. Athletic Comm., Preprofessional comm., Faculty of Arts and Sciences Council (FASC), and FASC-Planning and Budget. Chaired Founders' Day observance (3 times). Member of the self-study steering committee for the Middle States Association certification document. Has been director of Pittsburgh ACS for six years. Was co-program chair for central regional meeting, 2003. Has served numerous times on Pittsburgh Award committee. Research was in the synthesis of fluorinated polyurethanes, polymeric molecules of uncommon architecture with potential utility in medicine and a project to use sunlight energy to generate hydrogen from water.

**Heather Juzwa** is a Senior Field Sales Engineer at Shimadzu Scientific Instruments and has been since October of 2006. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 with an honors bachelors' degree in Chemistry. While performing undergraduate research with Dr. Paul Rasmussen, she created alternative experiments for the undergraduate Instrumental Analysis laboratory. Having a passion for instrumentation, she was hired by Hitachi Instruments upon graduation. Heather has also held a position at Digilab, a division of Bio-Rad, which was subsequently purchased by Varian. Heather's service to the field of chemistry began as an undergraduate and has continued throughout her career. She served as the Secretary of the American Chemical Society – Student Affiliates while a senior at the University of Pittsburgh and has remained in the ACS since then. In 2008, she was Treasurer of the newly formed Younger Chemists Committee. She served as Chair of the Pittsburgh Section in 2011 and currently serves as Webmaster for the Pittsburgh Section website. As webmaster, Heather worked with the Executive Committee to implement more uniform reporting for ACS National, paving the way for the section to tout their hard work and thus receive an esteemed ChemLuminary for being an Outstanding Large Local Section for 2012. It was by Heather's efforts that The Crucible newsletter was made electronic, saving the section thousands of dollars in printing costs. Heather also served as Chair of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh in 2013-2014. For many years, she has happily served on and chaired many committees of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, and the Pittcon committee and looks forward to playing key roles in these organizations for years to come. These committees include including the Mass Spec Discussion Group, Technology Forum, Technical Program, Membership and Directory, Student Affiliates, Employment, Continuing Education, Tripartite Symposium, Carnegie Science Fair, Marketing, Short Courses and Faraday Lecture Series. Heather and her team won an ACS ChemLuminary Award for the best regional meeting for CERM 2014 hosted in Pittsburgh. She also received both the Pittsburgh Local Section Distinguished Service Award in 2014 and the 2015 E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society for the Central Region. Heather Juzwa is interested in continuing her service to the section as a Director of the ACS to continue and expand her service to the field of chemistry and to foster a collegial community for Pittsburgh's scientists.

**Logan Miller** received his B.S. in Chemistry with a major in biochemistry and forensic chemistry from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (SRU). While at SRU Logan conducted a multi-year, independent research project focusing on intracellular protein analysis for apoptotic response in human myelogenous leukemia cells. In addition, he attended two academic meetings at *Experimental Biology* as a first author presenter. Logan also successfully wrote and received three independent grants to fund his research while at SRU. Currently, he is a sixth year chemistry Ph.D. student at Duquesne University. He is working in Dr. H.M. "Skip" Kingston's research group, which focuses on analytical techniques for the betterment of environmental human health measurements. His research interests range from developing separation methods for the quantification of human biomarkers using LC/MS/MS

technology too dried blood spot analysis for forensics and clinical markers. He has attended and presented oral and poster presentations at both *PittCon* as well as *American Society for Mass Spectrometry* conferences. Logan is actively involved (Chair/Co-Chair positions) in numerous committees with both SACP and SSP and has been a member since 2013. In addition, he is currently the Immediate Former President for Duquesne University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Phi Lambda Upsilon chemistry honor society. Logan is a founding member of Duquesne University's graduate student mass spectrometry committee that helps in overseeing operation of the mass spectrometry facility. In addition to the mass spectrometry committee he is also a founding member of the chemistry department's safety committee. He is currently serving as the editor of the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS Crucible newsletter and has been an ACS member since 2009. Additional roles within the ACS involve being chair of publicity/marketing committee for Pittsburgh ACS and Vice-Chair of Pittsburgh ACS's Women Chemist's Committee. Logan has also been awarded the ACS Younger Chemist Committee Younger Chemist Leadership Development Award in 2016. In 2017 Logan was awarded the Graduate Student Leader of the Year award from Duquesne University as well as a Bayer Research Fellowship for the fall academic semester. He currently serves as an associate member on the national ACS Younger Chemist Committee as well as on the Graduate Education Advisory Board (GEAB). Additional responsibilities include Fundraising Co-Chair for the 2018 Fall ACS National Meeting Graduate Student Symposium entitled, "Frontiers in Computation Chemistry: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Experiment," a symposium in memory of the late Dr. Jeffry D. Madura. He champions for the Pittsburgh ACS section and looks forward to the future growth and expansion of the section and continued success of programming.

#### COUNCILOR (1 REGULAR, 2 ALTERNATE):

**Michael Mautino** has worked for Covestro LLC (formerly Bayer MaterialScience, Bayer, Miles, and originally Mobay!) for the past twenty seven years. He began his career as a chemical laboratory technician, later progressing to a chemist position, formulating polyurethane foam systems for a variety of applications. He developed a number of polyurethane systems that have been successfully commercialized and currently holds two patents in the area of polyurethane rigid foam insulation. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Phoenix in 2004, Michael became a Marketing Representative at Covestro, and for the past five years has been a Product Line Manager in Covestro's Polyurethanes Regional Product Management Group. Michael is an active member of the ACS at both the local and national levels. For the past 19 years he has developed and managed the Pittsburgh ACS's community outreach activities into national ACS award winning programming, recognized for reaching out to the public to promote education and careers in the STEM areas. Under Michael's guidance the Pittsburgh ACS has won sixteen national ACS ChemLuminary awards for its National Chemistry Week (NCW) and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) programs. Michael has served as a Pittsburgh ACS Councilor since 2003. In 2014 Michael was named the Pittsburgh ACS's "Outreach Volunteer of the Year" and in 2011 the Pittsburgh ACS presented Michael with the Section's "Distinguished Service Award." Nationally, Michael is a recognized leader in ACS community outreach initiatives and promoting the applied chemical technology profession. He was chair of the ACS's Division of Chemical Technicians (2001-02), chair of the Committee on Community Activities (2004-06), chair of the Committee on Technician Affairs (2007-09), served as an elected member of the ACS's Committee on Committees (2011-16), and is currently serving as a member of the Local Section Activities Committee. He is proud of the ACS's Chemists Celebrate Earth Day program, which celebrated its 14th anniversary in 2017...a program that was developed under his leadership as chair of the oversight committee. Due to his community outreach efforts and promotion of the applied chemical technology profession on a national level, Michael was named an ACS Fellow in 2010.

**Ali O. Sezer** born and educated through college in Turkey, is a professor of physical chemistry at California University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul, Turkey, Sezer went to the U.S. to pursue an advanced degree in chemical and materials engineering. In 2002, he received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He worked as a visiting professor at Bucknell University and Haverford College, and as a postdoctoral scholar at Seton Hall University before moving to California University of Pennsylvania, where he currently teaches. Dr. Sezer's research interests are in the area of conducting polymers; particularly nano composites of these polymers with transition metal oxides for electronics, optical, medical, bio-sensing, and corrosion protection applications. He is committed to undergraduate chemistry education, especially to involving students in cutting edge research activities. Dr. Sezer supervises undergraduates in research activities and provides opportunities for them to present at national and international meetings and conferences. Dr. Sezer is also involved in text book preparations in general and physical chemistry. He has team-published "Know It All Chemistry: The 50 Most Elemental Concepts in Chemistry, Each Explained in Under a Minute" book in June 2017. The book, edited by Niva Tro, provides the public with a unique opportunity to learn about chemistry. The

European edition of the book comes out in September 2017. Dr. Sezer is involved in activities promoting student and faculty diversity at the local, regional, and national level. He enjoys deep-water diving in his free times.

**Edward Zovinka** graduated from Roanoke College with a BS in chemistry in 1987 and earned a PhD in Chemistry from the University at California – Davis in 1992. After postdoctoral research at NC State University, he joined the chemistry department at Saint Francis University (SFU). He has been a member of ACS for 30 years with membership in local sections and Divisions of Chemical Education and Inorganic Chemistry. He regularly brings students to the regional and national ACS meetings while also volunteering for the ACS Exams Institute. Edward has advised the SFU Chemistry club to “Outstanding” and “Commendable” awards from the ACS for 15 straight years. His research focuses on bioinorganic and environmental chemistry, publishing on a range of projects including the breakdown of red blood cells, the use of vanadium in biological systems,  $\beta$ -Lactamase resistance, the expansion of green chemistry in the inorganic laboratory, to studying water quality in Central Pennsylvania. Since coming to SFU in 1994, he has advised over 35 undergraduate students leading to over 40 presentations at local, regional, and national scientific meetings. Edward and his students have authored 31 publications spanning journals from the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* to *The Chemical Educator*. Many of his students have gone on to earn their Ph.D., M.D., Pharm.D., D.O., O.D., as well as careers in industry and education. During his career at Saint Francis University, he has been the Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on successful proposals to NSF, ACS, SSP, and the PA Department of Education for research, equipment, and community outreach program grants. Edward also served as the “Building Shepherd” during the construction of the 70,000+ sq. ft science facility, coordinating with the architects, contractors, advancement office, students, & faculty to bring the building to completion on schedule and under budget. He is strongly committed to improving science education. For over 22 years, he has directed the Rural Outreach Chemistry for Kids (R.O.C.K.) program that annually reaches over 5,000 K-12 students in the Central/Western PA region through over 230+ different events. In cooperation with teachers and student leaders, a hands-on event is planned from a menu of activities. During an event, SFU R.O.C.K. leaders with the help of SFU students lead the K-12 students through an activity designed to enhance the scientific method of discovery. As a member of the Hollidaysburg “Save the Planetarium” committee, he helped raise \$94,000 solely through community events to ensure the long term viability of the Hollidaysburg Planetarium. Edward’s awards include being named a *Pennsylvania Professor the Year* by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the J. Kevin Scanlon Award for the Promotion of Science by the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. He was honored by the Carnegie Science Center Awards for Excellence in the University/Post-secondary Educator category, awarded the Saint Francis University Student Government Association Outstanding Educator Award from SFU students and SFU Swatsworth Award winner by the faculty. He has been an active member of SSP serving as chair of numerous committees, serves on the Hollidaysburg Area School District Parent Leadership Committee, and is the Troop Committee Chairman for BSA Troop 3032.