



# SoFlacs



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South Florida Section ACS

November 2019

## NOMINEES FOR 2020 OFFICERS



### NOMINEE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

#### John T. Reilly, PhD

Dr. Reilly is professor of chemistry in the department of Chemistry and Physics at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Ft. Meyers. He graduated with his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from The Johns Hopkins University and did postdoctoral research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland and also at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia before joining the research technology division of Colgate-Palmolive Company. He has also worked at International Flavors and Fragrances and Symrise Inc. before his career in academia. He has spent the last 12 years in academia, first at the high school level teaching introductory and AP chemistry in New Jersey, then at Elon University in Elon NC as a visiting professor for two years. He followed this with a tenured position at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. While there he received a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship to India where he taught at the University of Rajasthan. In 2010 he took a position at FGCU where he is in his ninth year and served as chair of the department of chemistry and physics for 6 years. His research focuses on the properties of a skin enzyme that plays an important role in maintaining acidity of skin.

#### Dr. Reilly's Position Statement

As a member of ACS since my college days it is a privilege to be nominated for the position of chair-elect of the South Florida Section. I think it is critical that we continue to educate the public on what chemists do in their work. I think this can be accomplished in a myriad of ways: encouraging students, faculty, retirees and individuals in industry to participate in outreach efforts from elementary and middle schools to high schools and in the community at large. Additionally social media, via Facebook, Twitter etc., will be critical to reaching young people. I think expanding our outreach via social media will help our efforts and can be a source of information for the South Florida community. I think the local section should be a place in the community for individuals to go for information, guidance and mentoring. As a former faculty advisor to the chemistry club at two institutions I have learned that it is important that our activities be fun, exciting and of interest to the individuals. As chair-elect I will reach out to many for ideas and activities that they would like to see happen in their schools and communities. Lastly, as chair-elect, I will work with the chair to help carry out their efforts and to work with all members of SoFL-ACS to make this section the best in the country.



### NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY

#### Milagros Delgado, PhD

See bio and position statement below

### NOMINEES FOR COUNCILOR

#### Milagros (Milly) Delgado, PhD

Milly received her B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras in 1980, where she began her graduate work. She transferred with her major professor to the University of Miami where she received her PhD degree in 1987. During 1987-1989 she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Inorganic Chemistry Department at Oxford University, England. She returned to Miami in 1989 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Florida International University. Since fall of 1994, Milly has worked at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus, where she leads the lower division chemistry teaching, supervises laboratories, and advises chemistry and pre-professional students. Milly received the Excellence in Teaching award and the Teaching Incentive Program award from FIU in 1995. Milly has also received Outstanding Volunteer awards from Miami Dade County Public schools in 2003, South Florida Section in 2014 and FIU's College of Arts, Science and Education in 2016. Milly received the 2015 Zaida Morales-Martinez Prize for mentoring ACS scholars. Milly is involved in the integration of computers in the teaching laboratories and the development of active learning in the classroom working with the STEM Transformation Center at FIU being selected an HHMI Fellow. She has a strong mentoring and advising commitment toward science students at FIU, high school and elementary school levels. She has participated in the Upward-Bound Program for high school students during the past twenty summers. Milly is co-advisor to the ACS Student Chapter at FIU-Biscayne Bay Campus that has been recognized for their community activities with Commendable and Outstanding Chapter awards from the ACS and "Green Chapter" award. Milly has been active in ACS governance since 1993 both at national and local levels. As a National Councilor, she was Member of the ACS Project SEED Committee from 1994 - 2003, and chair of the committee from 2001-2003; Minority Affairs Committee from 1997-2005. Milly served as an elected member to the Committee on Committees 2004-2009 and to the Nominations and Elections Committee 2010-2015. More recently Milly was appointed to the Society Committee on Education where she hopes to have an impact on education issues and recently developed safety guidelines for middle, secondary and higher education. Milly has been a mentor and advisor for the ACS Scholars Program since 1995 and is a member of the ACS Scholar's Selection Committee since 2000. She was selected as an ACS Fellow, class of 2019. At the local level she was elected SoFL-ACS secretary in 1994 and Councilor in 1996, continuing in both positions.

Milly has been active in outreach programs for K-12 students of Dade and Broward counties. For the last two years she has secured funds and has helped organize and host Inquiry Based Workshops for high school chemistry teachers with participation of teachers from Miami-Dade and Broward counties. In addition, during the last 20 years, she has organized and hosted the South-Florida Student Awards Banquet, multiple speakers, and has developed programs at elementary schools to increase the general public awareness of science such as Science Family Nights, and the NCW and CCED Illustrated K-12 Poem Contest and helps organize the annual SoFL-ACS NCW events.

#### Dr. Delgado's Position Statement

I have represented SoFL-ACS at the national level by being appointed or elected to several ACS committees. My recent appointment to the Society Committee on Education increases the visibility of South Florida at the National Level. It is our opportunity to have a voice on newer trends in science education and policy statements related to science education. It is important to continue to be visible and active in the decision-making process of ACS to garner support and recognition for our efforts in continuing our mission to reach the general public and support the local chemistry community. Areas of concern for me are reaching out to the industrial sector of our section and our West Coast members. Because of our efforts now we have a seminar and general meeting of the Local Section in the West Coast at least once a year. For student members I would like to host a common meeting for leaders of each chapter to facilitate communication and the organization of common events. This will help to bring together our younger members in the Local Section. Have Ideas? Want to be involved? I encourage you to email me at [delgadom@fiu.edu](mailto:delgadom@fiu.edu). What are issues you would like to be addressed at National or local level? Continue to be active and if you have ideas on what works for you in your area, please let us know.

#### George Fisher, PhD



Dr. Fisher earned a BS in chemistry Rollins College (1965), M.S. in organic chemistry U. of Florida (1968), and PhD in organic U. of Miami (1972). He is currently Professor of Chemistry at Barry University and received the Barry U Presidential Scholar award in 1998 and 2007, and the Faculty of the Year award 2002. He received the SoFL-ACS Distinguished Service Award in 1991 and the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. Nationally, the ACS Southern Chemist Award in 1995 and the ACS award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students to Enter Careers in the Chemical Sciences in 2013. He was selected as an ACS Fellow, class of 2019. He has served the ACS in various positions for over 40 years. He was Miami Subsection Secretary-Treasurer, 1971 and 1976; Chairman-Elect, 1977; and Chairman, 1978. He was Florida Section Chairman-Elect-Designate, 1979; Chairman-Elect, 1980; and Chairman, 1981; South Florida Section Chair-Elect, 2002; Chair 2003 and 2004. As an ACS National Councilor/Alternate Councilor for over 25 years, he was a member of the ACS Project SEED Committee, 1984-1992 and 1998-2009; the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC), 1993-1996; and currently serves on the Community Activities Committee, 2010-present. He is also editor of *SoFlacs* newsletter, National Chemistry Week/Earth Day coordinator, chairman of the budget subcommittee, and chairman of the bylaws subcommittee. He has presented Chemistry Magic Shows/Demos since 1991 to enthruse elementary students about science. He was a mentor for several Miami Project SEED students from 1984 to 1990, and now coordinates the SoFL-ACS SEED program. He is also Executive Treasurer of Gamma Sigma Epsilon National Chemistry Honor Society and a member of Sigma Xi.

#### Dr. Fisher's Position Statement

My record of ACS service for over 40 years demonstrates my commitment to ACS. I will continue to support the goals of ACS to improve the public image of chemistry and the impact of chemistry on everyone's life and continue to present a positive image of chemistry to the general public through my service now on the national ACS committee on Community Affairs (NCW and CCEW). Educating our younger students (K-12) is one of my top priorities. I will broaden the scope of chemical education by continued outreach to local schools. We need to reach children early (elementary age) about the importance of chemistry and science to their everyday lives. As your Councilor I have also voted to keep your membership dues as low as possible while maintaining the level of services which members wish. I will work to increase the ACS thrust through programs such as Project SEED, ACS Scholars, and Minority Affairs.

#### Jesse Bernstein, PhD



Jesse Bernstein (elected ACS Fellow (2019)) is retired as a chemistry teacher and department chair at Miami Country Day School. He also taught at The Hawken School in Cleveland. He has B.A. and Ph.D. from S.U.N.Y. Buffalo in organometallic chemistry of aluminum. He was actively involved in the Cleveland ACS section, serving as chair of two committees for over 15 years. He has received several local, regional, and national ACS awards. He was the Cleveland local section High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year Awardee, as well as Great Lakes Regional H.S. Teacher of the

Year and the James Bryant Conant ACS National H.S. Chemistry Teacher of the Year Awardee for 2011. He was a mentor for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Team in 1998-2000 and currently is President-elect of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). He has given numerous workshops and presentations at local, national, and international conferences. He is also an author or co-author of several laboratory manuals that are geared towards Inquiry Based Chemistry Laboratory Experiments that have been adopted by both high school and college programs. He has served on ACS Project SEED committee and is currently serving on the Committee on Education (SOCED) and USNC Olympiad Program, a Science Coach for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers, and an ACS reviewer for the J. Chem. Ed.

#### Dr. Bernstein's Position Statement

It was an honor to have served three terms as Chair of SoFL-ACS and now I ask your vote for Councilor. As an active ACS member for over 50 years, in the Cleveland and the South Florida sections, I wish to continue to give back to the ACS organization, specifically helping to represent you at ACS national meetings as well as at the local level. I have been attending national ACS meetings for the past ten years missing only one meeting. Thus, you can count on my ability to represent you. Further, as your representative to ACS I will report back to you the decisions that were made at the Council meetings. Over the past 12 years I have helped run workshops for chemistry teachers and have also gotten the college and university chemistry professors in South Florida more involved in the science school students can participate in, especially with regard to pursuing their participation in fundamental research activities. Further, I helped encourage the formation of the Younger Chemists Committee. I will continue to be a proponent of having local section meetings and seminars on both coasts of South Florida as a way of including the involvement of professionals both in industry and education. As an educator, I intend to encourage enhancing Science Education outreach programs within our section as well as on a national level including continued and increased participation in National Chemistry Week, Chemistry Olympiad, and Project SEED. At national ACS I have been a member of the Society Committee on Education (SOCED) for seven years and Project SEED for three years prior to this. I have attended ACS national meetings for over 20 years. As such, I am quite familiar with the workings of ACS both on the Local and National level. I look forward to serving everyone in our South Florida Section as your Councilor.

#### Lisa Milenkovic, PhD

Lisa earned a BS in chemistry from the University of Miami and PhD in analytical chemistry from Northeastern University. She was quality Assurance Manager, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Boston, MA (1990-1994) and adjunct professor at Northeastern University (1992-1994). She then returned to Miami as a research associate at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (1994-1995); independent Consultant, Laboratory Automation, Instrument connectivity, database design and interface programming for environmental and pharmaceutical industry (1995-2003); half-time Assistant Professor, Barry University, teaching analytical and environmental chemistry (1998-2001); Staff Developer, Core Curriculum - Science, and Elementary Science Teacher, Broward County Public Schools (2004-2012); STEM Supervisor, Office of Academics, Broward County Public Schools (2012-present). She was District Finalist, Teacher of the Year 2009, and 2007 Environmental Educator of the Year. She has been an ACS member since 1985.



#### Dr. Milenkovic's Position Statement

Throughout my career, I have worked to provide resources to support others as an educator and mentor. The ACS serves well in that capacity for career chemists and for students in all levels of education. I currently serve as STEM Supervisor for Broward County Public Schools. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, especially the engagement and retention of STEM students as they progress from prekindergarten through career, is a topic that is receiving much-needed attention at all levels. I am afforded the opportunity to interface with all these levels – providing resources to support STEM from prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and connecting the K-12 system with higher education, non-profits, municipalities and businesses to afford every student the opportunities that a strong STEM education provides. My experience with the ACS began as a Student Affiliate member and active graduate student chapters. I served the local South Florida ACS section with the local section Women's Chemist Committee and as webmaster for the section in the mid-1990s. I look forward to once again contributing to the South Florida ACS section as a Councilor-Alternate Councilor. In this position I will work to support the outreach and education efforts of the South Florida ACS section.



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South Florida Section  
Department of Chemistry  
Barry University  
11300 NE 2nd Ave.  
Miami Shores, FL 33161



#### NOMINEE FOR TREASURER David Riusech

Since earning his Bachelors in chemistry from Florida International University in 1987, David has been working in private industry here in South Florida — 10 years for Cordis Corporation in the field of Medical Devices and the last 18 years have been dedicated to the Pharmaceutical industry working for various companies.

#### Position Statement

I have been with the American Chemical Society and the South Florida Section for many years but in recent years have felt compelled to take a more active role. SoFL-ACS has strong representation from the academic sector but practically no active representation from industry. Private industry in the chemistry field in South Florida has been facing challenges in the past decade but it is still present and has a good potential for meaningful scientific contributions. My goal for the position of Chairman-Elect and Treasurer is to increase participation of private industry from innovative, product oriented companies. This will eventually lead to a vibrant environment for Chemistry Professionals in both academia and private industry to thrive while giving graduating chemists from the section another option for a fulfilling career.

### VOTE IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA ACS ELECTIONS

Section members who have emails will receive an email mid-November with a link to vote online. If you do not have email or do not wish to vote online you can use the ballot below. SoFL-ACS members can vote by only ONE method: paper ballot or online.

1. For Councilor/Alternate Councilor, the two nominees with the most votes will become Councilors, the remaining two nominees will be Alternate Councilors.
2. Cut off the ballot below and place it in an envelope, sign the top left hand corner of the envelope, stamp and mail it to the secretary:

Dr. Milagros Delgado, Department of Chemistry  
FIU - Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A  
3000 NE 151 Street  
North Miami, FL 33181

**BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

CHAIRMAN-ELECT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	COUNCILOR/ALTERNATE COUNCILOR - Vote for 2 nominees	
___ John Reilly	___ Milagros Delgado	___ David Riusech	___ Jesse Bernstein	___ Milagros Delgado
or ___	or ___	or ___	___ George Fisher	___ Lisa Milenkovic