



SoFlacs



Vol. 31, No. 7

South Florida Section ACS

November 2021

NOMINEES FOR 2022 OFFICERS



NOMINEE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Thomas K. (T.K.) Harris

Dr. Harris is director of Undergraduate Studies in Biochemistry, 2012-present; Director of Medical Education, 2012-present; Associate Professor, 2008-present; and Assistant Professor, 2000-2008, jointly appointed with (i) Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of

Miami, Miller School of Medicine and (ii) Department of Chemistry, University of Miami. He has a BA in chemistry from the University of Mississippi, 1983, and earned his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, 1994. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in biological chemistry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 1994-2000. He has been an ACS member since 2004 and served as Alternate Councilor in the Division of Biological Chemistry, 2008-2010.

Position Statement

As Chair-Elect/Chair, I intend to recruit new members and raise the degree of participation in our local South Florida ACS Section. With twenty years of dual appointments in both Chemistry and Biochemistry, I teach, advise, and mentor many students across diverse projects and career goals. By recruiting and welcoming new, younger students and faculty, our local ACS section can continue to build enthusiasm for interdisciplinary research efforts, necessary for addressing Florida's lurking environmental and public health challenges. I look forward to enabling South Florida research groups to better connect, share expertise, and solve problems in collaborative manner.

NOMINEES FOR COUNCILOR



Zaida C. Morales-Martinez

In 2003, Zaida retired from Florida International University (FIU), as an Emeritus Chemistry Professor after 47 years of teaching. The last 30 years were at FIU where she received numerous awards including outstanding teaching awards and FIU's Distinguished Service Medallion in 2003. Zaida was very instrumental in the establishment of

the ACS Scholars Program in 1995 and has been their Mentoring Consultant since 1999. In 2004, she received the ACS award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences; in 2011 the ACS Board of Directors Volunteer Service Award to the ACS; and in 2017 the Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences in the Southeast Region. In 2018, she received the Presidential (USA) Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). In 2020 she was honored as an ACS Fellow.

Position Statement

Zaida joined the ACS in 1963, has been a Councilor for the Florida and South Florida Sections since 1987, participating in various appointed and elected national committees in all the years. After finishing 6 years as a member of the elected (by Council) Committee on Committees (CONC) in the Fall of 2017, she ran and was elected to the Council Policy Committee (CPC) for the period of 2018-2020 and reelected for 2021-2023. Zaida would like to continue representing SoFL-ACS in this elected Committee, that requires members to be Councilors. Therefore, she humbly asks for your vote.

Venkatesh M. Shanbhag

Venkatesh (Vic) Shanbhag, Professor of Chemistry at Nova Southeastern University, received a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Bombay, a M.Sc. from the Indian Institute of Technology,

Bombay and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He teaches chemistry courses (introductory, general, organic, and upper division) to students pursuing their career in health professions. He has been a member of ACS since 1986 and has served ACS in varied capacities: meeting chair for two of the Chemical Education Division's Programming (Orlando 2002 and Washington, DC 2005) and currently serves on the SoFL-ACS executive committee as the communications coordinator, webmaster, alternate councilor, Chemistry Olympiad coordinator and was Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair (2004-2006). He co-organized the annual Forensic Conference series (2003-2007) and is involved in high school outreach activities through the National Chemistry Olympiad, National Chemistry Week and teacher workshops. Prior to coming to NSU in 1998, he worked as a post-doctoral research associate at Iowa State University, as a Visiting Professor at Slippery Rock University, and as an Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Labs at Mississippi State University.



Position Statement

I have been involved in ACS activities at local and national levels for over 25 years. I have demonstrated my outreach and organizational abilities through the forensic conference series, workshops for school teachers, and other excellent programming. As your representative on Council, I will take initiatives to increase the participation of members in scientific and related activities. I would like see SoFL-ACS facilitate the development of a consortium of educators for community outreach activities, initiate programs for retired chemists in the region, and facilitate the interaction between industrial and academic chemists. I would like SoFL-ACS to facilitate empowering teachers at high schools and middle schools within the region. As a Councilor I would solicit your ideas and concerns regarding ACS policies and practices so as to present them to the council. I would follow the "listen & learn" motto during my term.

NOMINEES FOR TREASURER

Jesse Bernstein

Jesse Bernstein, an ACS Fellow, retired three years ago having completed eleven years as a chemistry teacher at Miami Country Day School. He also taught at The Hawken School in Cleveland, Ohio. He has a B.A. and Ph.D. in chemistry from S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo in organometallic chemistry of aluminum. Jesse was actively involved in the Cleveland ACS local 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. Jesse has been actively involved in our Local Section, SoFL-ACS, since he arrived in South Florida. If you have been to any of the National Chemistry Week Activities of our Section, you have probably seen him working with local college students while doing hands on demonstrations to students from pre-K through High School as well as the parents of the young children. 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 a member of the Society Committee on Chemical Education, SOCED, and is finishing up his 3-year term as President of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT).



Dr. Bernstein's Position Statement

It is quite an honor to be nominated for Treasurer of our South Florida Section of the ACS. As an active ACS member for over 50 years, first in the Cleveland Section and now in the South Florida Section, I wish to continue to give back to our Local ACS organization, specifically helping to improve the chemistry knowledge for high school teachers, as well as organizing seminars on all levels of education. Over the past 11 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 community by sharing their expertise in the form of seminars. Last but not the least, I wish to continue to maintain our Local Section's fiscal integrity as Treasurer of SoFL-ACS. Further, 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 both coasts have members of our Local Section. I am quite familiar with the workings of ACS on the Local level and look forward to serving everyone in our South Florida Section as your Treasurer.

David Riusech

Since earning his B.S. 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 20 years have been dedicated to the pharmaceutical chemistry 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.



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
South Florida Section
c/o Dr. George Fisher
309 NW 21st Court
Wilton Manors, FL 33311

Softlacs, the publication of the South Florida Section, American Chemical Society, is published periodically.
EDITOR and BUSINESS MANAGER: George Fisher, 309 NW 21st Court, Wilton Manors, FL 33311.
e-mail: gfisher@barry.edu

CIRCULATION: Send post office form 3579 to Circulation Department, SoFlacs, c/o George Fisher, 309 NW 21st Court, Wilton Manors, FL 33311.
SoFL-ACS web site: <http://www.softlacs.org> National ACS web site: <http://www.acs.org>

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 nominee with the most votes will be the Councilor, the remaining nominee will be the Alternate Councilors. You may write in another nominee.
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 26

CHAIRMAN-ELECT

TREASURER—Vote for 1 nominee

COUNCILOR/ALTERNATE COUNCILOR—Vote for 1 nominee

___ T.K. Harris

___ Jesse Bernstein

___ David Riusech

___ Zaida Morales-Martinez

___ Venkatesh Shanbhag

or _____

or _____

or _____