



# SoFlacs



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South Florida Section ACS

November 2022

## NOMINEES FOR 2023 OFFICERS

### NOMINEE FOR CHAIR-ELECT



#### Marc Knecht

Dr. Knecht is Chair of the Chemistry Department at University of Miami, 2021-present; Director of Undergraduate Studies in Chemistry, 2014-2021; Associate Director of the Biomedical Nanotechnology Institute, 2018-present; Professor of Chemistry, 2019-present; Associate Professor, 2011-2019; Assistant Professor of Chemistry at U. Kentucky, 2007-2011; Postdoctoral Fellow at U. Texas at Austin, 2004-2007; PhD Vanderbilt University, 2004; BS Duquesne University, 2001.

#### Dr. Knecht's Position Statement

As Chair-Elect/Chair, my main mission will be to recruit new members to the section and raise member participation across the South Florida region of the ACS. I have extensive experience interacting with students of all levels (from high school and undergraduate students to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows), advising on career goals and aspirations. By welcoming new students and additional participants, our local SoFL-ACS section can increase enthusiasm for emerging research activities, diversity, and participation in local section events. I am excited to participate in raising awareness for the South Florida chemistry research community to work collaboratively in enhancing our activities and research that is critically important and addressing energy, environmental, and public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY

#### Milagros (Milly) Delgado

See bio and position statement below



### NOMINEES FOR COUNCILOR

#### Milagros (Milly) Delgado

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 is Teaching Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Chemistry. Milly received the 2022 FIU Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Advising, the FIU Excellence in Teaching award and 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 and 2019. She has also received the 2018 Community Engagement and 2019 Teaching Award from the FIU College of Arts, Science, and Education. 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. Since 2016, Milly was appointed to the Society Committee on Education where she is active in training New faculty in evidence-based teaching. Milly was candidate for the Director at Large for the ACS Board of Directors in 2022. 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. 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. 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. She helps organize the annual SoFL-ACS NCW Family Day.

#### Dr. Delgado's Position Statement

I have represented SoFL-ACS at the national level by being appointed or elected to several ACS committees. Being a candidate for the Board of Directors of the ACS in 2022 was an honor and a recognition of the work that South Florida is doing. I will continue to communicate and hold the core values of the ACS focusing on members, safety, ethics, diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect. Being a member of the Society Committee on Education is our opportunity to have a voice on newer trends in science education and policy statements related to science education. At the Local level, I helped to form the Younger Chemist Committee where young professionals and graduate students can have their voices heard and address issues related to the profession and network. The Younger Chemist Committee has been active in outreach events sponsored by the Local Section and had held workshops and socials. I will like to see the Younger Chemists prosper and expand to involve representatives from the different regions in South Florida. Our community outreach efforts in South Florida received two Chemluminary Awards in 2022, I want to be instrumental in continuing our outreach programs and support the local chemistry community. Areas of concern for me are reaching out to the industrial sector of our section, increase involvement of students when they graduate, and keep a healthy and productive relationship with our West Coast members. Help me increase the connection with all our members. Let me know how the South Florida Section be of help to you. What type of programs will be of benefit to you or worth your time. I encourage you to email me at [delgadom@fiu.edu](mailto:delgadom@fiu.edu). Continue to be active and if you have ideas on what works for you in your area, please let us know.

#### Jesse Bernstein



Jesse Bernstein (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 serve three terms as Chair of SoFL-ACS and now I ask for your vote for Councilor. I believe that it is time for someone to bring new ideas to the National Councilor Meetings. 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 twelve years missing only one meeting for health reasons and four during Covid (attending these virtually). 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 14 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 eight 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.



### George Fisher

Dr. Fisher earned a BS in chemistry, Rollins College (1965), MS in organic chemistry, U. of Florida (1968), and PhD in organic, U. of Miami (1972). He is Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Barry University, having retired in 2020 after 47 years in academia, the last 32 years at Barry where he received the Presidential Scholar award in 1998 and 2007, Faculty of the Year award 2002, and Excellence in Teaching award 2018. He received the SoFL-ACS Distinguished Service Award in 1991, Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015, 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 inducted as an ACS Fellow in 2019. He has served the ACS in various positions for nearly 50 years. He was Miami Subsection Secretary-Treasurer, 1971 and 1976; Chairman-Elect, 1977; Chairman, 1978; Florida Section Chairman-Elect, 1980 and Chairman, 1981; South Florida Section Chair-Elect, 2002 and Chair 2003 and 2004. As an ACS National Councilor/Alternate Councilor for over 35 years, he served on the ACS Project SEED Committee, 1984-1992 and 1998-2009; Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC), 1993-1996; Community Activities Committee, 2010-2019; and currently on the Constitution and Bylaws committee, 2020-present. He is editor of *Softlacs* newsletter, and chair of the budget and the bylaws subcommittees. He has presented Chemistry Magic Shows/Demos to enthuse 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 Treasurer and past President 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 nearly 50 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 to present a positive image of chemistry. Educating our younger students (K-12) is a top priority. 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.

### Lisa Milenkovic



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 awarded the 2022 "Making a Difference Award" from the ACM Computers and Society group and recognized as a 2022 Broward Schools alumni Hall of Fame inductee. She has also been recognized as a District Finalist, Teacher of the Year 2009, and 2007 Environmental Educator of the Year. She has been an ACS member since 1985.



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### 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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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 an 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.

- For Councilor/Alternate Councilor, the 2 nominees with the most votes will be the Councilors, the 2 remaining nominees will be the Alternate Councilors. You may write in another nominee.
- 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

COUNCILOR/ALTERNATE COUNCILOR—Vote for 2 nominees

\_\_\_\_ Marc Knecht

\_\_\_\_ Milly Delgado

\_\_\_\_ Jesse Bernstein

\_\_\_\_ Milly Delgado

\_\_\_\_ George Fisher

\_\_\_\_ Lisa Milenkovic

or \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_