

Local section posts DEI statement

first published 13 November 2020

Last night, November 12, the Board of Directors of the Saint Louis Section approved a statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, expanding on the statements issued by national ACS and affirming our values and support.



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Chemistry as a discipline is not pursued in isolation. Our coworkers, classmates and colleagues are human beings first, and chemists second. We must acknowledge and take action to address the challenges faced by our Black colleagues, our Indigenous colleagues, and our colleagues of color.

The St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society (STL ACS) condemns the systemic racism and inequality that persists across the chemical and other sciences and in our day to day lives. We stand in solidarity with Black chemists and chemical engineers, and the communities in which they live and work. We share the grief, dismay, and disappointment felt by our fellow Black chemists and chemical engineering members, and acknowledge their trauma, anger, and the lasting damage to their careers.

We embrace all facets of diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect for all individuals, regardless of race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, marital status, political affiliation, country of origin, ability status or educational background. In line with these values, STL ACS rejects and condemns any act of discrimination. We are inspired by the [video statement](#) issued by ACS President Luis Echegoyen reaffirming our Society's commitment to these core values and our commitment to working to bring an end to systemic racism.

The St. Louis Section of ACS has activities planned in consultation with our [Committee on Minority Affairs](#), including listening discussions ("Let's Talk Race and Racism"), and discussions amongst our members in governance about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As a professional organization of chemists and chemical engineers, we stand in unity with the Black community.

And in other election news ...

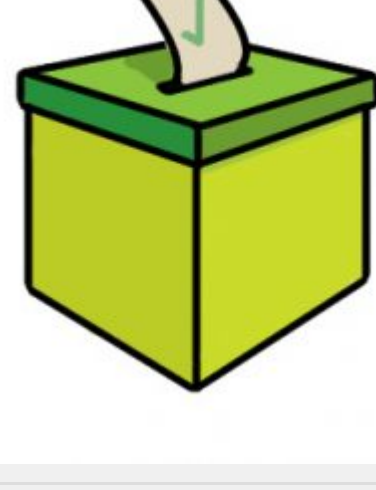
first published 14 November 2020

... we can now report the results of the Local Section 2021 Officer balloting.*

Taking or retaking up their respective positions, officially on January 1st, but unofficially as of Continuity Night on December 10th, are:

- Chair-elect **Cynthia Chapple**
- Secretary **Henry Rohrs**
- Treasurer **Jeff Cornelius**
- Directors **Rhonda Woerndle**, **Bill Doub**, and **Cristina DeMeo**
- Councilor **Donna Friedman**
- Alternate Councilor **Hal Harris**

Congratulations, of course, but more to the point, thanks for your willingness to serve!



*Was going to get all wordsmith-y on you and call it "ballotage". Only to find out that it is an actual word, not a neologism, and it doesn't have the obvious meaning. For future *Jeopardy!* contestants, ballotage is a run-off election held when no candidate receives a majority in the first round.

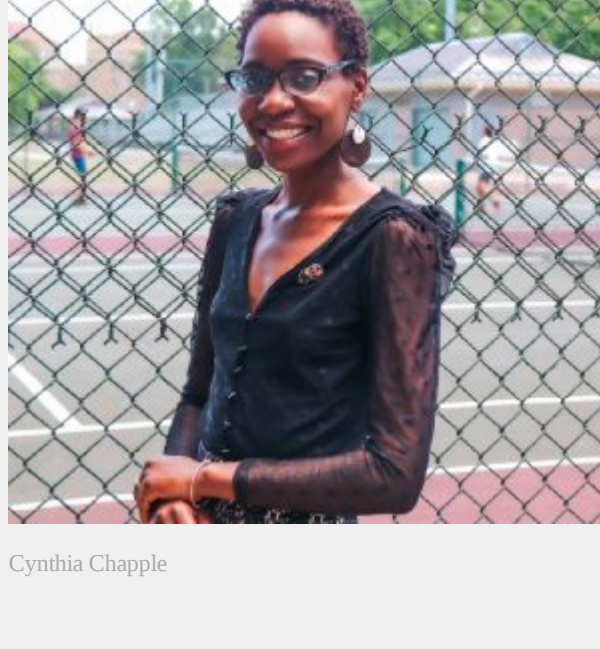
A WISER Cynthia Chapple

first published 18 November 2020

Cynthia Chapple, whom, coincidentally, we just announced as the 2021 Chair-elect of the St Louis Local ACS Section, has been making a career out of proactively advancing involvement of Black women in STEM careers. That's in addition to her day job as senior research chemist at ELANTAS PDG, developing innovative protective coating technology for electronics markets.

Cynthia is the founder and director of *Black Girls Do STEM*, a program to trigger curiosity about STEM studies in the minds of every black girl. Back in July, we reported that Cynthia was featured in a *St. Louis Business Journal* virtual symposium on "how racism has impacted their lives, impeded their careers and shaped the path they tread today."

And now — why we're back talking about Cynthia a-GAIN — she has been interviewed for a WISER podcast (Women In Science, Entrepreneurship, and Research), part of a series hosted by Dena Ladd, Executive Director of the Missouri Cures Education Foundation, with "interviews of inspirational women from Missouri, the midwest, and around the world." You can listen to the podcast [right here](#), and learn what she's up to at Black Girls do STEM [over there](#).



Cynthia Chapple

Eric Bruton on career resources

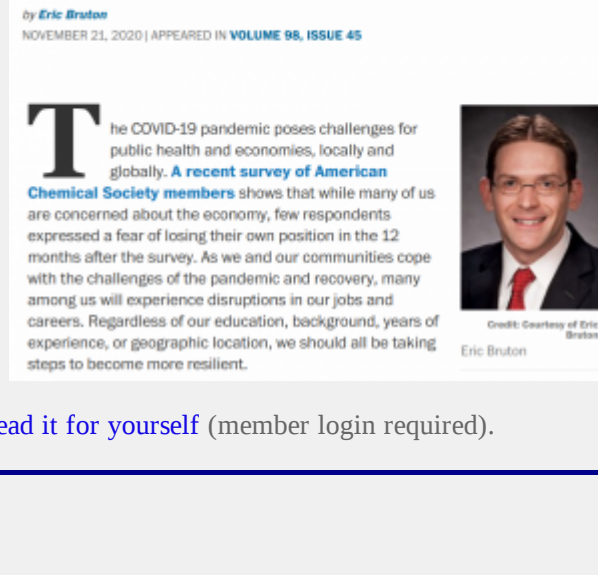
first published 28 November 2020

Members of our local section continue to make splashes in the big pond that is national ACS. **Eric Bruton**, Chair of the section in 2012 and current Councilor, provided a commentary for *C&E News* (vol. 98, issue 45, November 23, 2020) about career planning and resources.

The bottom line is that we can often take our current employment for granted and neglect professional development, networking, and the ever-present possibility of losing that job. In short, per Eric, "Too often, we find ourselves taking a long break from active career planning."

Eric's commentary goes on to tout the role of national ACS' CEPA (Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs) in providing professional development and job search assistance for members. And reminds us all of the invaluable networking and career resources available through the Local Section.

But don't take our word for it, or our summary as the final word. You can [read it for yourself](#) (member login required).



More COVID rearrangements

first published 30 November 2020

No surprise, certainly, but the annual fancier-than-usual Continuity Dinner that normally coincides with the December Board of Directors meeting

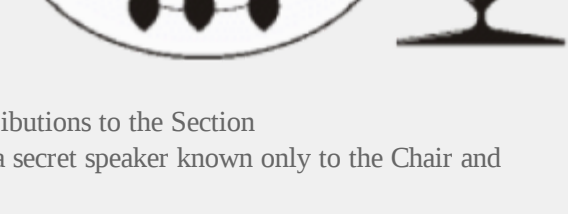
Yeah, no. We'll be Zoom-ing instead.

Regular attendees will receive an invitation a few days in advance of the scheduled December 10th meet, and RSVPer's will get a link to the Zoom room on the day of. If you're not a regular attendee but wish to attend, please email chair@stlacs.org, and you'll get your link.

Why would you want to? Well, there will still be some special events to liven up the usually staid tenor of regular Board meetings:

- announcement of the **Distinguished Service Award** for exceptional contributions to the Section
- the **Henry Godt Memorial Lecture**, a light-hearted year-in-review by a secret speaker known only to the Chair and him/her/them/sel{f}ves}
- meet-and-greet and hear a brief talk by [the 2020 winner of the Saint Louis Award](#), **Richard Loomis** (this in lieu of or a temporary expedient anticipating a full-on Symposium and Banquet when the air clears)
- the passing of the book and gavel from outgoing Chair **Sophia Hayes** to incoming Chair **Samina Azad**

The business part of the December meeting is usually kept mercifully brief, too, so you won't be trapped. Come join the fun, and BYOBeverage to the comfortable spot in front of your computer monitor.



Meeting & Seminars

Board of Directors

St Louis Section—ACS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month over Zoom for the foreseeable future

Date: December 10 ([via Zoom](#))

Join internet meeting at 6:00 pm for social/chit-chat

Business meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Future meetings: January 14, February 11

Maryville University

Seminars are approximately once a month on Thursdays, 4-5 pm. Details are available on the university's [seminar page](#).

All seminars are free and open to the public. Contact [Jason Telford](#) for more information.

St. Louis College of Pharmacy

The Center for Clinical Pharmacology hosts a monthly seminar series in ARB 212 unless otherwise noted. For the most up to date information refer to the center's [seminar page](#) or contact [Jodi Maslin](#).

Saint Louis University

Seminars are generally on Fridays at 12 noon in Carlo Auditorium, Tegeler Hall, unless noted otherwise. Refreshments follow. For the most up-to-date information, refer to the department's [home page](#) and follow the link to the Seminar Schedule.

University of Missouri—St Louis

Mondays at 4 pm in 451 Benton Hall, unless otherwise specified. Refreshments 15 minutes prior to seminar time. For timely information on visiting seminar speakers, contact the Chemistry Department, 314.516.5311, or visit the [seminar schedule](#). The department has additional seminar series which are also accessible from this page.

Washington University

Seminars are in McMillen 311 at 4 pm unless otherwise noted. For information, consult the departmental [events page](#). Related seminars, including endowed seminar series and the WU med school biochemistry series, are linked here as well.

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