



American Chemical Society – Central Virginia Section
Younger Chemists Committee Mid-Year Report
May 14, 2016

I, Heather Lourenco, was elected chair of the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) in January 2016. My goal this year was to continue to rebuild the Central Virginia Section YCC by engaging members building off the momentum from the work Kathleen Sink did last year. I realized that this would be a huge feat alone; therefore, I decided to form an executive committee to aid in planning and executing events throughout the year. The executive committee includes the following officers:

Chair: Heather Lourenco

Co-Chair: Rhonda Butts

Secretary: Margaret Roszel

Treasurer: Ben Hay

A survey was sent out through Survey Monkey to gain insight about activities that members would be interested in participating in. After the survey was reviewed, we held our first business meeting January 27, 2016 where we had six members in attendance. During this meeting we discussed tentative events, introduced/elected executive members, and discussed member interests. In order to engage current and future YCC members and promote fellowship we plan to hold events on a monthly basis when possible.

Our first social event of the year was a happy hour at Boulevard Burger and Brew in Richmond on February 17th, 2016. The event was well attended by college students and young professionals from a variety of local industry locations. There were eleven people in attendance, including one guest. The happy hour was a good opportunity to network, promote upcoming events, and to discuss better ways to communicate with younger chemists in the section.

On March 25th, 2016, the YCC held its first "Dinner and Talk" event at Blue Bee Cidery. This event launched a new series of events aimed towards the younger chemist population in the Central Virginia Section of the ACS. The aim of these events is to allow YCC members to gain exposure to different fields of chemistry while networking with other chemists in the section. While at the event, members enjoyed refreshments and featured speaker, Kathryn Deibler, who gave a talk titled "A Career in Flavor Chemistry." Kathryn talked about the science behind flavor chemistry and her journey in flavor chemistry. Her talk concluded with an interactive demonstration of the effects of the Miraclefruit and how it can change the way your taste buds perceive taste. There were eleven YCC members and five guests in attendance. The YCC is looking forward to having future events like this and is actively looking for volunteer speakers who are willing to participate.

On April 27, 2016 another happy hour was held at Ardent Craft Ales. There were six members in attendance and four guests. This event allowed networking among members and guests from other industries.

The YCC has the following events planned throughout the year including:

04Jun16 - Food and Wine Festival/Eastern VA Mixer

Summer/July - Langley NASA Tour

August: Dinner and a talk (Farmville) - a career in Academia

September - Charlottesville Apple Picking

01Oct16 - Eastern VA Career Event

We are currently looking for volunteers to both participate in and help in the planning and execution of the Eastern Virginia Career Event which will be the largest event we have planned for the year. The event will include a networking lunch, a career panel, breakout sessions, and workshops to aid in career preparedness.