

Report to the Executive Committee of the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society

January 23, 2016

Younger Chemists Committee



Virginia Section Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) in 2015:

The Younger Chemists Committee hosted a spring dinner and lecture, “The Chemistry of Cannabis,” on March 3rd at Sine Irish Pub in Richmond, VA. We were fortunate to have Dr. Aron Lichtman speak about his research at VCU Pharmacology and Toxicology.

This summer and fall, YCC has been collaborating with Colleen Taylor and other individuals in the Virginia Section to launch a mentoring program for chemistry undergraduate students. We successfully completed a summer trial for the mentoring program and hosted a meeting at University of Richmond on October 8th. We discussed the successes and opportunities for improvements as we begin to expand for Spring 2016. We are still looking for mentors to volunteer- so if you or anyone you know would like to mentor chemistry undergraduate students please sign up!

YCC also met at Virginia Commonwealth University October 14th to discuss plans for 2016 and current projects. Committee members would like to host a chromatography workshop (possibly at VCU/MCV campus) in 2016. This would be a 1 time 2-3 hour event for students and young professionals looking to obtain or enhance separation science skills. We could partner with Richmond Chromatography Discussion Group (RCDG) and I have been in contact with Matt Halquist. YCC members also like the idea of practicing leadership and presentation skills by possibly introducing speakers at the monthly Virginia ACS meetings and leading projects within YCC/ACS.

Finally, we received an award for Outstanding New Local Section Younger Chemists Committee! The YCC respectfully requests that \$750 be allocated in the 2016 budget for YCC activities. We look forward to future events this year!

Respectfully,

Heather Lourenco and Kathleen Sink