

Greetings Orlando Section!

As the Fall season kicks off, we have great information to share with you. We are (1) seeking nominations for annual awards, (2) calling for candidates for 2021 Executive Committee, (3) updating you on the adoption of our strategic plan and on its implementation, (4) announcing our bid for the 2025 SERMACS, and (5) reporting on our support of the ACS Student Chapters Bi-Annual Seminar Series. Despite these challenging times, the Orlando Section is here to support chemists in the greater Orlando area, so please never hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, comments, or concerns!

Stay safe!

-Chris Chouinard, 2020 Chair

1. 2020 Call for Nominations – ACS Orlando Section Awards (Due by October 23, 2020)

Do you have a chemistry student who performed at an outstanding level in the classroom, laboratory, and beyond last year? Who among your academic colleagues deserves recognition for making chemistry exciting and fun for students? Do you have a colleague who has advanced the field of chemistry?

If you know someone who should be recognized publicly for one of these achievements, please nominate them for an ACS Orlando Section award! Each year the Orlando Section of the American Chemical Society honors outstanding chemists, from Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia counties. Awardees from the high school, college, and research levels and industry are usually honored at the Section's annual banquet luncheon held in early December. However, we anticipate holding the ceremony virtually due to COVID. Each award consists of a plaque, and a monetary award.

Awards

The Eileen Tulley Award for Outstanding High School Student

Outstanding High School Teacher

Outstanding Student at a Primarily Research Institution

Outstanding Student at a Primarily Teaching Institution

Outstanding Teacher at a Primarily Teaching Institution

Outstanding Teacher at a Primarily Research Institution

Outstanding Graduate Student

Outstanding Chemistry Professional*

Outstanding Chemist

*We have added a new award this year, Outstanding Chemistry Professional. In this category, we are looking for someone who exhibits excellence and professionalism among technicians, lab managers and other chemical technology professionals. Additionally, because we no longer have two-year colleges, we have renamed the college level awards.

To nominate an individual, 1) write a letter of nomination stating why this person deserves the award, 2) obtain a letter of support from someone else who knows the nominee. Each letter should include the name of the award, and the writer's email address and daytime phone number. Because the category is so competitive, it is recommended that in the case of high school student nominees, information regarding outside activities should also be included. Electronic submissions are required. Email PDF letters to Dr. Darlene Slattery, Chair of the Orlando Section Awards Committee at dslattery1@cfl.rr.com. To be considered, nominations must be received by **noon of Friday October 23**.

2. 2021 Executive Board Candidates & Voting (Due by October 15, 2020)

We are seeking interested individuals to join the Orlando Section Executive Committee in 2021! We have several positions up for election, including: **Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate Councilor**. A description of each position is included below, but please contact Duy Le, Nominating Committee Chair (duy.le@ucf.edu), with any additional questions.

Please submit all nominations (self-nominations are welcome!) to Duy Le by **October 15**. Voting is expected to open on **October 23**, when you will receive a separate email from Qualtrics with the instructions on how to cast your votes electronically. ***Please let us know before October 15 if you would like to be mailed a paper copy ballot.***

Officer Roles and Responsibilities:

A. **Chair Elect** (one-year term; three-year term total). The main responsibilities are:

- 1) To vote/participate in exec decisions
- 2) Succeed to office of Chair for the next year
- 3) Serve as chair for meetings which the Chair cannot attend

B. **Treasurer** (one-year term). The main responsibilities are:

- 1) Prepare the annual budget/expenditures report for Nationals
- 2) Maintain the Section bank account
- 3) Maintain a budget, disbursements, expenditures, and accounting for the Section activities
- 4) To vote/participate in exec decisions

C. **Secretary** (one-year term). The main responsibilities are:

- 1) To take notes at exec meetings
- 2) To set-up and distribute ballots for elections (mostly electronic now)
- 3) Oversee website and social media communications
- 4) To vote/participate in exec decisions

- D. **Alternate Councilor** (three-year term). The main responsibilities are:
- 1) To attend ACS national meeting(s) annually (if Councilor is not able), represent the Section, and report back activities
 - 2) Assist in preparing and submitting the annual report to the national office
 - 3) To vote/participate in exec decisions

3. Strategic Plan Approval & Implementation Plan

The Orlando Section Executive Committee reviewed during the August executive meeting the comments we received on the 2021 Strategic Plan and approved a final version for the long-term vision of the Section. The Plan itself can be found on our Section website (<https://communities.acs.org/community/society/component-websites/orlando-local-section/pages/opportunities>). We encourage you to take a look and provide any additional feedback. Our bid to host the 2025 SERMACS, the creation of new professional awards and the upcoming activation of a communication committee places us well on our way to implement our vision to become a hub for our memberships. Next up is for us to craft an Implementation Plan to be successful in executing our vision.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we extend a “Thank you!” to Michel Johnson for his assistance in formulating this plan. Be sure to keep up-to-date with Section news on our website and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/acsorlandols>).

4. SERMACS 2025 Bid – Orlando

The Orlando Local Section is preparing a bid to host the 2025 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS). If successful, our Section anticipates ~2,000 attendees to participate in the meeting to be held in **Orlando, FL in October, 2025**. We initiated the formulation of the technical/scientific symposium and are **looking for volunteers to help us get a robust team!** Please reach out to Chris Chouinard, SERMACS Bid Committee General Chair (cchouinard@fit.edu), or Titel Jurca, SERMACS Bid Committee Program Chair (titel.jurca@ucf.edu), for more information on how to get involved.

5. ACS Student Chapters Bi-Annual Seminar Series

The ACS Orlando Local section approved a request for financial assistance by the ACS student chapters at the Florida Institute of Technology and the University of Central Florida to organize a chemistry seminar series. The full announcement is on the ACS Orlando Local Section website at <https://communities.acs.org/docs/DOC-74537-bi-annual-seminar-series>. Students will identify the guest speakers and organize the events to enable students to interact with the presenters. Although the ACS student chapters at FIT and UCF co-hosts the events which will be streamed, they would like more Florida schools involved. All Orlando Section members are welcome. More details to follow!