



Message from the Editor, Pranshu Puri (Secretary, FL-ACS)

Welcome to this special edition of our newsletter marking a century of the FAME conference. Reaching this historic milestone is a testament to the dedication and vision of everyone involved. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our executive members for their unwavering commitment and passion, which have driven the growth and development of the Florida Section of the American Chemical Society (FL-ACS). I also want to thank all the participants and volunteers whose invaluable contributions have been key to the success of our events. Here's to 100 years of excellence and to many more ahead.



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FL-ACS Events

Can't believe it's the 100th of FAME!



Dr. Brent Sumerlin (left) was honored with the Florida Award 2024.



Winners of Poster Session-I at FAME with FL-ACS committee members.



Winners of Poster Session-II at FAME with FL-ACS committee members.



Enthusiastic participation and fruitful discussion in the Poster Session at FAME.



Winner of Poly/PMSE Poster Session at FAME with FL-ACS committee members.

The FAME 2024 conference proudly marked the 100th anniversary of this esteemed event, celebrating a century of excellence in fostering collaboration and innovation within the scientific community. Chaired by Dr. Kari Basso, this year's meeting has attracted over 300 participants, including students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, companies, and researchers from 22 academic and industrial institutions across Florida and the southeastern United States. Nearly 110 oral

presentations and 61 posters were featured during the exposition. FAME continued to offer a unique platform for both graduate and undergraduate students to present their research in a supportive and collaborative environment, with students submitting the majority of this year's abstracts. Special thanks to the judges for the poster session for the detailed analysis of the posters during two different sessions and the chairs for each sub-division of chemistry-organic, inorganic, bio, and physical chemistry; and Poly/PMSE society for coordinating the oral and poster presentations. Poster session winners- ***Thi Le, Erina Kotreli, Nada Elkholy, Pranshu Puri, Kiana Treaster, and Summer Brown*** were awarded certificates and gift vouchers. On the centennial occasion of the symposium, Dr. Brent Sumerlin from the University of Florida was honored with the 2024 Florida Award winner.

Kick the Scary Molecules!



Fluorescence experiment demonstration by UF students at Molecular Mania in Gainesville, FL.

The Chemistry Department at the University of Florida hosted the Annual Halloween Molecular Mania at The Oaks Mall, engaging the public with hands-on chemistry experiments. Piloted by Prof. Adam Veige, a dedicated team of graduate and undergraduate students conducted interactive demonstrations in the Dillard's Court area. The experiments were designed to illustrate fundamental concepts in chemistry, including the vapor

pressure, polymerization, fluorescence, crystallization, and the various states of matter. The event was a resounding success, attracting over 500 participants, including children, teachers, and parents. The initiative was skillfully organized by students Courtney Sever, Ariana Tamura, Gina Diodati, and Alexander Diodati. FL-ACS is proud and grateful to sponsor this event, where culture seamlessly merges with science. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to support such a meaningful initiative that inspires curiosity and learning within our community.

We Love You Mother Earth!

The FL-ACS proudly participated in Earth Day 2024, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship and raising awareness about critical environmental issues. Under the leadership of Dr. Carmen Gauthier, FL-ACS actively promoted the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW)



Earth Week event organizing team in Lakeland, FL.

2024 theme of batteries by conducting a series of engaging experiments, including the Volta pile, fruit batteries, well-plate batteries, and static electricity demonstrations. Additionally, a poem competition was held to inspire creativity and reflection on sustainability. The event, held at

Bonnet Spring Park in Lakeland, saw tremendous success, with over 170 participants joining the activities. Volunteers from ACS-FSC, along with friends of FL-ACS, played a vital role in the day's achievements. In a bid to reach a broader audience, 400 CCEW booklets were distributed in both English and Spanish. The FL-ACS is grateful for the community's enthusiastic participation and looks forward to continuing its efforts in promoting environmental awareness and education.

Capital Science and Engineering Fair!



Dr. Beni Dangi and students at CRSEF, Tallahassee, FL.

The Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair (CRSEF) was held at the Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee, showcasing the innovative work of middle and high school students. The Florida Section of the American Chemical Society (FL-ACS) played a prominent role in the event, with the Councilor Dr. Beni Dangi evaluating the top chemistry projects at the Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair, awarding Walmart gift cards to the winners in both middle and high school categories. The Florida Section of the American Chemical Society (FL-ACS) was recognized for its volunteer efforts and sponsorship during the prize ceremony. This annual event in Tallahassee continues to inspire young scientific talent.

Meet Dr. Phillips at the FAME's Centennial Celebration



*Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips
(ACS President 2025)*

Dorothy Jean Phillips is a distinguished American chemist and the current President-elect of the American Chemical Society. Her early life was shaped by segregation in the southern United States, which did not deter her from pursuing a career in chemistry. Phillips' passion for science was ignited by her participation in a National Science Foundation summer school designed for African-American students. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati, becoming the first African-American woman in the city to earn a PhD in biochemistry. Following her graduation, Phillips joined Dow Chem.

where she worked as a bench scientist and made significant contributions to the development of circular dichroism techniques, as well as advancements in antibiotics and herbicides. Her involvement with the ACS began in 1990 when she joined the Northeastern Section. In 2013, Phillips was appointed director-at-large of the ACS, and she was re-elected in 2016. Her tenure has been marked by her commitment to enhancing globalization and diversity within the organization. Since 2014, she has served as the ACS board liaison for the Science and Human Rights program, which monitors and advocates for scientists whose rights are compromised globally. Phillips' remarkable career has been recognized with numerous awards, including the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. Dr. Phillips has been invited to the upcoming FAME's centennial celebration for the plenary lecture in September 2025. Don't miss this rare event and stay tuned to our website and social media platform (link provided at the bottom of the page) for updates regarding FAME 2025.

Upcoming Events

Reserve the date for SERMACS 2024

The 75th SERMACS will be held in Atlanta from October 23 - 26, 2024. The theme of the symposium is 'Advancing & Transforming Lives through Chemistry (ATL-Chemistry).' Symposium proposal submissions can be found on the website sermacs2024.org (SERMACS 2024 – Advancing and Transforming Lives through Chemistry).



Get in touch with us!

