Dear ACS Members and Friends,
Local sections provide professional development opportunities for members, organize community outreach events, offer awards, and offer others an opportunity to learn more about governance in the ACS. I am proud to say that we have members in our section who have reached 50, 60, and 70 years of membership milestones. This year, more than 18 of our members have reached these significant milestones. It is undoubtedly a phenomenal feat to achieve.

We are honoring our milestone Delaware ACS section members this month by dedicating a special summer DELCHEM Bulletin issue for their service and engagement with the American Chemical Society (ACS). We asked our honorees to complete a questionnaire or provide a written biographical sketch so that we can all benefit from their experience. We are happy to share the eight responses in this issue. I hope this issue inspires others to find their motivation to improve the world through the transforming power of chemistry.

I would also like to mention my in-person meeting with Dr. Al Denio on August 5th for a coffee chat. He has been a strongly involved ACS member for about 64 years. Almost 26 years were within the Delaware section. It was quite an interactive meeting! We discussed multiple topics such as our professional journey, association with the ACS, and activities/events for the section. He advised applying our chemistry knowledge for
the protection of the environment as one of the key areas for consideration. He showed his pleasure in the section activities and thanked all committee members for participating in leadership roles for the section.

Overall, my sincere efforts would be to continue the legacy of our section and help young chemists and students to benefit from society by advancing the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of our planet and its people. I strongly encourage all fellow chemists to connect with the section, make contributions, and fully use of the opportunities that the section offers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or other executive committee members listed in the contact information. Your support is critical to the success of the programs of the section for fellow chemists. Thank you for your continuous support and readership.

— Anuj
# Congratulations to Our Delaware Members Who Have Achieved Milestone ACS Anniversaries this Year!

![Image of award and road with points indicating 50, 60, and 70 years]

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**FOCUS — Delaware ACS Milestone Members**

**70-Year Member**

**Jean M. Bostwick**

**College and Major**
Mount Holyoke College  
Physiology, with additional concentrations in Chemistry and German language and Literature.

**Employer(s)**
DuPont (Patent section of the former Explosives)
Department) 
Hercules (Patent Section of the Law Department)

Awards and Accomplishments
Ultimately served for several years as the supervisor of the chemist support group in the Patent Section of the Hercules Law Department.

Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?
I wasn’t a true chemist or chemical engineer by degree, but rather was able to use my interests and training in the sciences, mostly chemistry, and foreign language (German) to become an intellectual property specialist over my years at DuPont and then Hercules.

Who had the greatest influence on your career, and why?
Learning on the job(s) I held. Supervisors, especially patent attorneys, were major resources, along with the R&D personnel I regularly contacted.

What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?
Finding a patent in the US Patent & Trademark Office dated well before 1900 that clearly “killed the novelty” of a non-technical “invention” proposed by a corporate supervisor.

Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?
The diversity of areas to which these field(s) can be applied and the challenges they offer.

What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?
I joined ACS within my first year after college, and its resources added to my continuing education in the field.

Did you hold any positions in the local section? Please tell us a little about that experience.
Never held any local section positions but did attend meetings fairly regularly.

What do you think the next great invention in chemistry will be?
No guess, but probably in one of the rising fields I read about regularly in C&EN and attempt to understand.

Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.
Have been a widow for 20+ years. Was married to a chemist and my only son has been a long-time technical employee of CAS, so you could say “it runs in the family.” Otherwise, I’ve been active in a community organization and my church, although age is slowing me down a bit.

60-Year Member
Dr. Charles Baylor Jr.

College and Major
Undergraduate, Morgan State University, Chemistry
Graduate, Utah State University, Organic Chemistry

Employer
E I DuPont De Nemours & Co

Awards and Accomplishments
5 Patents

Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?
Became interested at 9 years old. Had several chemistry sets. From this beginning chemistry became my passion.

Who had the greatest influence on your career and why?
Dr. Harold Delaney, Professor at Morgan State University, he was my research advisor during my undergraduate junior and senior year.

What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?
My most memorable experience was collaboration with several Japanese companies in the development of Automotive Headup displays in the early ‘90s (while at DuPont).
Why Would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?
Chemistry offers the opportunity to invent something new or teach others.

What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?
I joined the ACS in undergraduate school as a student affiliate. Then through C&E News, found an ad for graduate studies at Utah state, which offered me a TA position.

What recommendations do you have for the Delaware Section for the next 10 years?
Continue to offer speakers of various topics and their email communications.

Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.
I'm a native of Baltimore, Maryland and attended Dunbar High School. I ran track and cross country in high school and college. I worked as a consultant for DuPont for 7.5 years after retirement. In retirement I've been a chemical and financial consultant. My hobbies involve bowling, golf, and games of chance (poker and casino's). I have two children and three grandchildren. My four sisters also graduated from Morgan State University!

60-Year Member

Thomas J. (Tom) Podlas

College and Major
Seton Hall University, Physical Chemistry of Soluble Polymers

Employer
Hercules Incorporated/Ashland Incorporated

Awards and Accomplishments
Hercules internal awards
18 U.S. Patents
Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?
A cousin and 2 or 3 friends were chemists, talking with them showed me how interesting chemistry could be.

Who had the greatest influence on your career, and why?
Mr. Joe Desmarais, my first supervisor, confidant, and friend. Many discussions about a wide variety of potential work projects were invaluable.

What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?
Many! Probably my work showing how properties of a variety of polymers changed because of seemingly minor structure changes.

Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?
If the student was curious and willing to put in the time, I'd go what Joe Desmarais did for me and see how they reacted.

What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?
Honestly, I was told joining ACS was the thing to do.

What recommendations do you have for the Delaware Section for the next 10 years?
Keep up the good work, with technical seminars and other programs

What do you think the next great invention in chemistry will be?
I wish I knew! It probably involves the problems with pollution and how polymers, latex, etc. are involved.

Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.
I've been retired almost 10 years. I have 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and just became a great grandfather 7 months ago. Everyone keeps me and my wife Katie as busy as we want (pleasantly so).
60-Year Member

**Mike Stemniski**

Long-term members of the Section need no introduction to Mike Stemniski, who has done countless (more than 400!) chemical demonstration lectures over the years. For many years he wrote, proctored, and graded the state high school chemistry exam. He’s been a stalwart member, officer, and volunteer for the Delaware Section.

Mike graduated with a BS in chemistry from Villanova University and a PhD in organic chemistry from Fordham University. He received his Professional Education Certificate in Chemistry from the University of Delaware while also doing post-doctoral research in photochemistry. After teaching at Brandywine Springs Junior High, Mike moved to McKean high school where he taught for almost 35 years. For most of that time, he also taught at Delaware Technical Community College and the University of Delaware, where he still teaches part-time. In addition to the awards listed below, he was also named the Delaware ACS Chemistry Teacher of the Year in 1984 and the McKean HS Teacher of the Year in 1998. He is a two-time winner of the Delaware Section’s Tillmanns-Skolnik award for service to the section.

**Mike writes —**

My greatest award was being named a Fellow of the ACS in 2016. Another recent award is being named a Cornerstone Member of McKean High School in 2017.

I became a chemist because my brother was a chemist. I became an educator because of circumstances.

I became a member of ACS in the 60's because that was expected of you to enhance your career. I am glad that I did, because from my membership I met many fantastic people, mostly from the Delaware Section, who have become good friends. I served as Chair in 1990 and on the Education Committee for many years. I was a member of the Delaware Section ChemVets for many years and a member of the Delaware Academy of Chemical Sciences.

In conclusion, I live in Hockessin with my wife of 55 years. I have a son who lives in Memphis with his wife. I have a grandson and an unknown due in September. I enjoy
vacationing at my cottage near the Poconos and my annual trips to Disneyworld in Florida. I still teach two classes each year at UD, one in summer and one in winter. I would consider myself a frustrated golfer of over seventy years.

50-Year Member
Richard Butler

College and Major
Univ. of Maryland, College Park, BSc. Chemistry
Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Ph.D. Chemistry

Employer(s)
Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez: Mayaguez, PR
E.I. DuPont & Co.

Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?
I've been fascinated by chemistry since taking my first chemistry course in high school.

Who had the greatest influence on your career, and why?
Gordon Akinson was my freshman chemistry professor at Univ. Md. He got me an assistant position with another new chemistry professor my freshman year and a job as a research assistant for the Molecular Spectroscopy Group my first summer, which I continued doing for the next 3 years.

What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?
My most memorable experience was working as part of the facilities planning team that built a new greenfield chemical plant in the north of France. I led the design, specification, and installation of the laboratory facilities for the plant, worked on the startup team and was a member of plant management for 4 years.

Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?
Chemistry is a fascinating subject. It intersects with all other sciences and disciplines. As a chemist you can work in industry, academia and government taking your experience in either one and using it in any of the others.
What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?
I became a student affiliate of ACS as an undergraduate chemistry major. When I was unemployed, after finishing my Postdoc in England, ACS meetings were instrumental in giving me employment opportunity contacts back in the US.

Tell us a little about yourself – hobbies, family, other accomplishments.
I've worked as a university professor, in industrial research, and at chemical manufacturing plants in Puerto Rico, France, and states from Delaware to Texas. I enjoy travel, reading, photography, sailing, brewing, and drinking beer. In my younger days I was an avid scuba diver. For two years I was a member of a club in England that was a branch of both British and Scottish Sub-aqua clubs. These days I do my swimming in a pool. I retired in 2016, which gives me more time to travel, take photographs and read.

50-Year Member
Frank Kolpak

College and Major
LaSalle College, 1972, BA Chemistry
Case Western Reserve Univ, 1974, MS Macromolecular Science
Case Western Reserve Univ, 1977, Ph.D. Macromolecular Science

Employer(s)
Post Doctoral Fellow, 1977 – 1979, Dept of Biology, Mass Institute of Technology

Awards and Accomplishments
WR Willets Award, 1982

Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?
I became a chemist because I wanted to learn how the world functioned on a molecular level.

Who had the greatest influence on your career, and why?
Sister Mary Nazarita, High School Chemistry Teacher — I wanted to go into science but did not know which discipline; she turned me onto chemistry in a big way.

What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?
Getting to work on the Z-DNA structure while at MIT, papers published in 1979 Nature and 1980 Science merited the cover for both issues.

Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?
Most of the most exciting advances in science have a strong influence of chemistry in them.

Did you hold any positions in the local section? Please tell us a little about that experience.
Was on the selection committee for the Delaware Section Carothers Award for about 4 years before I retired. It was very enlightening to make the winner selection because you were looking at scientific accomplishment that also had a significant economic aspect.

What recommendations do you have for the Delaware Section for the next 10 years?
Keep the outreach programs strong, especially to young people.

Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.
I was married to my first wife Susan for almost 22 years before we lost her to ovarian cancer in 2005. Our two children are now successful adults — Rebecca is currently a “Digital Nomad”, building websites for specialty pharmaceutical companies and living at various locations all over Europe and South America. Timothy is married to Cate and is a mechanical engineer working for Klinge Corporation which manufactures and modifies very low temperature shipping containers.
I recently married Lynn Stanton and we moved into a new house in Darlington Ridge in West Chester.

My hobbies include wood working and enjoying the outdoors. I have been a Boy Scout leader for over 21 years, and I am an Eagle Scout.

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50-Year Member

**Joseph Steed**

**College and Major**
Brown University, Sc.B. ’73, Sc.M. ’73 in Chemistry w/ Honors
Harvard University, Ph.D. ’79 in Chemical Physics

**Employer(s)**
Lovett School, ’73-’74
E.I. du Pont de Nemours, ’79-’01
Earthshell Corp., ’01-’02
International Titanium Powder, ’02-’04
Independent Consultant, ’04-present

**Awards and Accomplishments**
Internal DuPont awards for Creativity, Innovation, and Environmental Excellence. Member of teams whose work was recognized in awards to DuPont of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation (2003) and the World Environment Center Gold Medal (1987).

**Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?**
From my first chemistry set, science was part of me. In high school, my chemistry teacher, Charles Wachs, taught me to love it to the point where my classmates nicknamed me Avogadro. I later flirted with physics and found my way to chemical physics in grad school.

**Who had the greatest influence on your career, and why?**
My graduate advisor, William Klemperer, became a reliable friend whose advice led to my work in atmospheric chemistry and continued as he served as a consultant to programs that I led. He treated me as a colleague, rather than a student, from the day we met, showing me how to trust and defend my own work, analysis, and conclusions. That prepared me for not just research, but every other role I held during my career.

**What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?**

One small incident always comes to mind. As a grad student at my first scientific conference, I was approached by an older gentleman who noted what research group I belonged to. He asked for my thoughts on one of the papers at the conference. I was shocked that my opinion would matter to anyone, much less the Nobel prizewinner from a few years earlier, Gerhard Herzberg. Unfortunately, I had not heard the presentation, but still managed a brief conversation. However, the moment I won’t forget came in an Executive Committee meeting at DuPont where I had just presented my recommendation that we announce a complete phase-out of CFCs based on what the science was then telling us. They agreed, and a week later I was tasked with making the public announcement.

**Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?**

I’d encourage them to find their passion, whatever it is.

**What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?**

I was encouraged by the Brown Chemistry faculty as an undergraduate to join, and by then was committed to a career related to chemistry. Over the years, I attended occasional national meetings, but my work shifted toward atmospheric chemistry and geophysics where other societies were often more relevant.

**What do you think the next great invention in chemistry will be?**

Focusing on my fondness for physical chemistry, I think, and hope, that some of the most important developments will occur in energy storage, battery chemistry, and efficient energy conversion, all of which will require fundamental contributions from chemistry.

**Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.**

I’m a lifelong reader, a wannabe tech geek, and an avid skier. But I’m always happiest
with family, a few close friends, and nature. Science seems to run in the family. My wife, Rita, is a biochemist, and my daughter is a transportation engineer married to a professor in the same field. All three grandsons love doing “science experiments with Papa.”

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50-Year Member
Lois Weyer

**College and Major**
Douglass College/Rutgers University, 1968, BA Chemistry
University of Delaware, 1971, MS Physical/Analytical Chemistry
University of Delaware, 1996, Analytical Chemistry

**Employer(s)**
Central Chemical Company, 1971-1973
Hercules Incorporated, 1973-2002
Alliant TechSystems (now Northup Grumman), 2002-2012

**Awards and Accomplishments**
SAS Spectroscopist of the Year 1999; EAS Award for Achievements in NIR Spectroscopy 1992. Member SAS, ISA, CNIRS (past chair). Chair of Industrial Advisory Board of MCEC, participated in DOE, NSF, NIST advisory panels, participated in Chemical Industry Analyzer Roundtable meetings, member of editorial board of the Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy, course director of Near Infrared short course at EAS, course director of Online Process Analyzer short course for the Center for Professional Advancement, led the 9th International Diffuse Reflectance Conference in 1998; also led a number of conference sessions at EAS, Pittcon, IDRC, etc. Co-authored the book *Practical Guide for Interpretive Near Infrared Spectroscopy* and its second edition. Authored scientific papers and book chapters. One patent.

**Why did you become a chemist or chemical engineer?**
When my high school chemistry teacher asked the class what they would major in, I just thought “that sounded good”. I didn't like biology and hadn't had physics yet, so I said “chemistry”. I liked the rainbow-colors on the chemistry book cover and a color-changing demonstration that had been given at our school. I had no idea what the career would be like. I had been told by my parents that college was “a waste of time and money for girls” and so I worked hard to go anyway and major in a field that would pay well, to show that I could. If I had known what engineering meant, I would have chosen that I think.

**What is your favorite chemistry memory or what was your most memorable experience as a chemist or chemical engineer?**
I recall the excitement of getting an infrared spectrum from inside a reaction vessel and being able to “see” what was happening in real time.

**Why would you encourage a current student to be a chemist or chemical engineer?**
I think it is great to be able to see what things are made of or what is happening inside something.

**What motivated you to become an ACS member and how did it play a role in your success?**
I knew I needed to try to network and learn from others from other companies. ACS offered opportunities to attend and eventually lead seminars and conventions. An ACS connection helped me obtain a new job when I was laid off from Hercules.

**Did you hold any positions in the local section? Please tell us a little about that experience.**
I was Chair of the section in 2001, Process Spectroscopy Topical Group leader, NCW committee, and other roles.

**What recommendations do you have for the Delaware Section for the next 10 years?**
Continue outreach to children.

**Tell us a little about yourself — hobbies, family, other accomplishments.**
Girl Scout volunteer to local low-income girls for 26 years; DIY work such as tiling walls
and floors, rock walls; designed and sewed most of my clothes during my years at Hercules; building and restoring wooden dollhouses; restoring our 4 acres of land to native plants. Private pilot license in the 1980s. Two sons, both with advanced degrees in technical fields. Also, two grandchildren with technical degrees.

The new website for Delaware ACS has launched!

delawareacs.org

Visit us on social media—