

# the Catalyst



Official publication of the Philadelphia Section, ACS  
<http://phillyacs.org>

May 2020  
Volume 105, No. 6



**May Meeting**  
**Ron Nash**  
**Master Career Strategist Coach**  
**Founder of Get Hired Now! Programs**

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

**JUNE MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2020**  
7:00 PM

Via Teleconference -- click on <https://meetingsamer4.webex.com/meet/philaacs> to attend,  
beginning at 6:50 PM.

Speaker: Robert Hormann, PhD, President of Boraura, Inc.

See the JUNE issue of *the Catalyst* for details,  
call the Section Office at (215) 382-1589 or email [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com).

# *the Catalyst*

ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

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Published monthly except July, August and December by the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. All views expressed are those of the editors and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. Editorial matters should be sent to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief c/o the Philadelphia Section ACS, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 231 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323 or PhilaACS@gmail.com.

Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

*Comments  
From  
the  
Chair*



**Joe Martino III**

## UPDATE ON SECTION ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The ACS Philadelphia Section continues to adjust to the realities of COVID-19 as the impact of the virus increases at an exponential rate.

At the end of March and in my capacity as Chair of the ACS Philadelphia Section, I made the executive decision to cancel our April 21<sup>st</sup> Awards Banquet featuring Professor Jinglin Fu of Rutgers-Camden and to convert this to the webinar featuring Professor Fu's talk exclusively that was held this past April 21<sup>st</sup>. The path forward for recognizing the award winners will be discussed later in this column. Moving on to this month, I have also decided to make the May 21<sup>st</sup> Section Meeting featuring LinkedIn expert Coach Ron Nash a webinar-only event. Finally and in consultation with the Section's Executive Committee, the June 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon to honor our 50-, 60- and 70-year members has also been cancelled, and the Section will be working with these individuals to afford them the recognition that they so justly deserve for their many years of service to the Society. This recognition will include the traditional awarding of an anniversary certificate and recognition in *the Catalyst* as well as an invitation to the 2021 member anniversary luncheon. Dr. Robert Hormann, the President of Boraura, Inc. and the keynote for the June event, has also agreed to present his talk as an exclusive webinar to the Section membership on June 11<sup>th</sup>. As our Board of Directors meetings always have a teleconferencing option, they will continue to be held so that the Section is properly governed, and that business continues to be conducted in as normal a manner as is possible. I am grateful to Professor Fu and Dr. Hormann for their flexibility and cooperation in helping our Local Section during this difficult time in our Section's history.

All these decisions were made according to guidance issued by the CDC and the President of the United States as well as state and local agencies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by social distancing.

Moving forward, this past March 23<sup>rd</sup>, I called the Executive Committee to order to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Section. The decisions that I have described above were discussed and explained, with significant input being sought and considered, especially in order to honor our award winners and our 50-, 60- and 70-year members in an appropriate and fitting manner. The Executive Committee is also looking forward to the Fall, with the postponed Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture and a visit from ACS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Thomas Connolly on the schedule. In collaboration with our Chair-Elect and Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Christine McInnis, the Executive Committee has decided for this year to combine honoring our Excellence in Pre-College Teaching and Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Chemical Sciences Awards with our ACS Philadelphia Section Award ceremony in October. The Committee has also paved a path forward to ensure that our Student Scholastic Achievement Award winners that were to be recognized at the April meeting are also honored in a manner befitting their achievements while upholding our Section's traditions for this award.

I am sincerely grateful for the input and advice given by those who have participated in this critical Executive Committee meeting for our Local Section.

As *the Catalyst* is a monthly newsletter which is deadline driven, it is impractical from a logistics standpoint to publish the most recent information on this quickly changing response to COVID-19 in this forum. I will be using this column to report to you – our membership – why either the Board of Directors, our Executive Committee, or I have made the decisions that we have made and how those decisions impact the Section. I will also be doing this in a manner which gives you the detail that it deserves, so some of these columns may be longer than in previous years.

For the most current, up-to-date, information on the activities of the ACS Philadelphia Section, please pay attention to these resources:

- Our Section's monthly email blast: Ms. Marge Matthews has faithfully distributed this email to you, our members, for many years. It is highly interactive with links to all the information and events that you need. Marge will be distributing any urgent changes to events through this forum, and I want to publicly thank Marge for her efforts in quickly distributing this information to you.
- Our Section's website – <https://phillyacs.org>: Mr. Matthew Bodek, our Section's webmaster, and our Chair-Elect, Dr. Christine McInnis, have worked to recently update the website so that it has a cleaner interface. The home page now has a calendar of events which can be rapidly changed to update you on any events which may either be cancelled or converted to a webinar due to COVID-19. You can also now view the Section's Facebook and Twitter feed right on the website as well. I want to thank Matt and Christie for their efforts here and invite you to look at the updated website.
- Our Section's LinkedIn group: If you go to the Section's website and click on the LinkedIn button, you will be led directly to the Section's LinkedIn group. Here you will find the latest information about the Section's activities and updates on our events. Please join this group as this will help us to get more rapid information out to you.

Certainly, you are welcome to reach out to me with any questions or concerns by sending an email to [philaacs@gmail.com](mailto:philaacs@gmail.com), and I'll be happy to discuss them with you. We live in very disturbing and unsettling times, but together – step-by-step, with our scientific problem-solving skills, determination and grit – we will persevere through the end of this and when it does end, we will together enjoy the brighter and better days that the ACS Philadelphia Section and you – our members – so justly deserve.

### **LINKEDIN AND ITS USE**

With the pestilence that is COVID-19, we have come across a new phrase in our lexicon: social distancing. I am sure that all of us have some semblance of cabin fever and would like the days of social distancing to be quickly over, especially with Springtime weather here! But while we socially distance ourselves physically in the fight to destroy COVID-19, it does not mean that

we need to be entirely socially distant. The timing of this LinkedIn webinar for our May Regular Meeting could not be better.

The ACS Philadelphia Section has streamed Section events before, especially our Ulliyot Public Affairs Lecture. However, these events have always been coupled with the physical event itself. As the Section has done for the April meeting and now for May, the ACS Philadelphia Section will go entirely virtual by webinar. In doing this in the short-term age of social distancing, the Section does its part to keep its members safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Long term, having a webinar component may help our Regular Meetings be more available to a wider audience, especially to those in our membership who find commuting to our Regular Meetings difficult.

In January, I discussed the pop culture phenomenon of the “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon” and how it applies to LinkedIn. For this month, our Career Services Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Dennis Murphy, has invited Coach Ron Nash to expand upon LinkedIn and how to better utilize it. Some of you may have interacted with Coach Ron if you attended the ACS Career Fair at the ACS National Meeting this past August in San Diego, so we welcome Coach Ron through virtual means to the ACS Philadelphia Section and look forward to his expertise.

The ACS Philadelphia Section appreciates that our members may have some cabin fever, so Coach Ron and Dennis have planned something a little different. We may not be able to gather at the local craft brewery for fun networking in person, but that’s not going to stop us from doing it virtually through Zoom! Before Coach Ron discusses LinkedIn, we will be holding a virtual “happy half-hour” which Coach Ron will moderate. This should be a fun, light-hearted warm-up to a great talk – all in the comfort of your home (and we could all use a bit of fun and light-heartedness at this point, anyway!).

In June, Dr. Robert Hormann, the President of Boraura, Inc., will be giving a webinar-based discussion on his involvement with Rheoswitch technology that is used for gene therapy. We are also looking to once again hold a light networking event in late August (and hopefully in-person, too!). In the Fall, we are looking to hold the re-scheduled Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture with the Chemistry Department of the University of Pennsylvania. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Section will be hosting a visit from ACS CEO Dr. Thomas Connolly. As I mentioned earlier, October will be our combined Teaching Awards and ACS Philadelphia Section Award ceremony. Finally, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, Nobel Laureate Dr. Peter Agre of Johns Hopkins University will present the Ulliyot Public Affairs Lecture.

So, despite COVID-19, the ACS Philadelphia Section remains as strong as ever, and together, step-by-step, we will all enjoy the Section’s brighter and better days when this health crisis finally comes to an end.

As always, should you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at [philaacs@gmail.com](mailto:philaacs@gmail.com) with your thoughts. Please know that this is your professional home and that you are welcome. In the meantime, please stay healthy and safe, and we will chat next month!

## NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

**Eric Shelter**, professor of chemistry at Penn, received the inorganic chemistry lectureship award from the ACS division of Inorganic Chemistry. His research is directed to rare-earth separation associated with recycling of electronics.

### DEATHS

**George Preti**, former adjunct professor in dermatology at Penn, March 3, 2020 at 75. In 1971 he joined the Monell Chemical Senses Center as a research associate, as well as Penn's chemistry department as a lecturer. At Monell he studied human odors and odor biomarkers that enabled training of dogs in the early detection of cancer. He also taught in the obstetrics and gynecology department and served on the mass spectrometry advisory board in the department of metabolic diseases at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Preti was a 52-year member of ACS and served on the committee of arts and sciences for the Franklin Institute. He was executive editor of *Chemosensory Perception* for 13 years.

**Helen Grace Reid**, retired chemistry professor, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 77. She worked briefly for Shell Oil in environmental chemistry before obtaining her doctorate. She joined West Chester University's faculty and developed a forensic chemistry curriculum. She also worked with the medical examiner's office in New York City, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms lab at Rockville, MD, and National Medical Services in Willow Grove.

Helen Reid traveled several times on mission trips to Central and South America for Medical Ministry International where she assisted pharmacists and clinics in rural areas. After retiring from WCU in 2005 she taught chemistry at Villa Maria Academy. She engaged in volunteer work for her church and the Salvation Army and housed international students and refugees. She was a 54-year member of ACS and served as chair of the Philadelphia Section in 1983.

**Donald Fitts**, emeritus professor of chemistry, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 87. He was appointed a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Amsterdam and then joined Penn's chemistry department in 1959. He was also assistant professor in the Laboratory of Research in the Structure of Matter. From 1978 to 1994 he served as associate dean for graduate studies in Penn's school of arts and sciences.

On sabbatical leaves he served as a NATO senior science fellow at Imperial College, London; as academic visitor in physical chemistry at the University of Oxford; and as visiting fellow at Corpus Christi College at Cambridge University. Fitts authored three books on thermodynamics and quantum mechanics, and numerous articles in the field of physical chemistry.



## *Thriving in the New Normal!*

*Jobsearch and LinkedIn Networking during COVID-19*

### **Webinar for ACS Philadelphia Chapter**

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM EDT - 8:30 PM EDT

Featuring:

Master Career Strategist Coach Ron Nash,  
Founder of Get Hired Now! Programs

And a virtual "Happy Half-Hour" with Special Guest Trent Gordon!

Join Coach Ron Nash as we explore LinkedIn networking and job searching strategies, especially as we navigate the influence of COVID-19 in the work world. To liven things up, Coach Ron will be moderating a "Happy Half-Hour" with Special Guest Trent Gordon where we can network with each other in a light-hearted and fun way. Please come and join us!

The event is free to ACS Members, and non-members are asked to pay a \$5.00 nominal fee to participate.

Please register at <https://bit.ly/2K8556Z> to participate in this event.

**The May Board of Directors meeting is on May 4<sup>th</sup>. See page 102 for details.**

# SPEAKERS' ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHIES

**Ron Nash**  
**Master Career Strategist Coach**  
**Founder of Get Hired Now! Programs**  
**and**  
**Trent Gordon**

**Vice President of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter  
of the Canadian Biomaterials Society**

***Thriving in the New Normal!***

## ***Job Search and LinkedIn Networking during COVID-19***

**Abstract:** With some people in career transition, getting ready to graduate, or not feeling very secure in their current positions, this is the time when getting serious about your professional virtual networking skills is mission-critical.

We like to think of the world based on these three categories:

1. Nice to have.
2. Need to have.
3. Must have!

The nice to have's are the first to go in a spiraling economy.

Instead of the Starbucks six-dollar **quad long shot grande in a venti cup, half calf double cupped no sleeve, salted caramel mocha latte with 2 pumps of vanilla, substitute 2 pumps of white chocolate mocha for mocha, and substitute 2 pumps of hazelnut for toffee nut. Half whole milk and half breve with no whipped cream. Extra hot, extra foam, extra caramel drizzle, extra salt, add a scoop of vanilla bean powder with light ice, well stirred,** you'll probably brew your own coffee at home with the Nespresso machine that is rarely used!

Right?

Your career networking on LinkedIn is no longer a Nice to Have. It is now a Must Have. If you are NOT taking your LinkedIn profile and career networking seriously, it will have detrimental effects on your career from this point forward.

It's now time to quickly adapt to being more comfortable thriving in a virtual environment. Even once the COVID-19 situation improves, it is highly likely that we will be virtual indefinitely.

In this interactive Zoom Webinar presentation, Coach Ron Nash will address important Must Haves:

1. How to optimize your LinkedIn Profile
2. Create your personal brand
3. Showcase your subject matter expertise
4. Enhance your career networking
5. Succeed at video interviewing

**Ron Nash Biography:** LinkedIn mastermind and Inspirational speaker Ron Nash is the world's first Interactive Career Coach and Mentor. Through his innovative combination of social technology, career coaching and mentoring, Coach Ron is redefining how students and professionals climb the career ladder in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

His two decades as a human resources business partner and headhunter informs his work today, helping new graduates and established professionals build their brands and career networks on LinkedIn.

Ron has taught his personal branding and networking methodologies at conferences, including Social Media Examiner; world-class educational institutions, including the University of California at Los Angeles; USC, Pearson Education, Cengage Learning, Pearson College UK and numerous corporate organizations.

His keynote on “How to LinkedIn: The Science of Maximizing Your Personal Brand” is an entertaining and educational event that has become a favorite amongst colleges, universities and corporate audiences. Coach Ron Nash delivers his message in a way that utilizes “edu-training.”

**Trent Gordon Biography:** Trent is actually joining us from just north of the border in London, Ontario, Canada. Trent finished his undergraduate degree in Biochemical engineering in 2018 and is now pursuing a master's degree in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Western Ontario.

Trent is on the board of directors for the Canadian Association for Research in Regenerative Medicine and is the vice president of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Biomaterial's society.

Trent's research focuses on developing polymer systems for drug delivery and tissue engineering applications. In his spare time, he loves running, biking and of course, ice hockey.

## **720<sup>th</sup> ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: May 4, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM, by teleconference

Access Information:

**By Internet:**

Website: <https://bit.ly/2KzUj9T>

Meeting Number: 629 521 186

Password: May2020BoDMtg

**By Phone:**

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 629 521 186

## **DELAWARE VALLEY MASS SPEC DISCUSSION GROUP**

*The Delaware Valley Mass Spec Discussion Group (DVMSDG) will host a virtual (ZOOM) meeting at 4 PM (EST) on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Neil Kelleher will speak on Building the Community of Top Down and Native Proteomics. Please RSVP to Harsha Gunawardena, [hgunawar@its.jnj.com](mailto:hgunawar@its.jnj.com)*

## **ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS**

*Would you like to speak to a local ACS Career Consultant? The Philadelphia Section career consultants can provide one-on-one career advice, resume reviews, or mock interviews. Please send an email request to [acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com](mailto:acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.*

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Being a part of one of our teams can help you develop organizational and meeting skills as well as help you to network with people from the largest area companies. Public Relations, such as sending out meeting notices and press releases, can help you to develop a network and help you get noticed!

All committees are looking for new members and several are looking for "take charge" chairs. Some, like the Teller's Committee, involve minimal work—one night per year and pizza provided. Others, like positions on Communications or Social Committees, involve one or two hours per month.

Committee details can be found at:

[www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia](http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia)

or by calling the Philadelphia Section Office (215) 382-1589.

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