



West Virginia University

*The C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry
and the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences*

present the

Twenty-Seventh Annual

C. EUGENE AND EDNA P. BENNETT
CAREERS FOR CHEMISTS PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

7:00 p.m.

THE BENNETT FAMILY

C. EUGENE BENNETT was born in Rutherford, West Virginia, and graduated from Cairo High School in 1945 at the age of 16. He obtained a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1949 and a master's degree in organic chemistry in 1951 from West Virginia University. While attending WVU, Dr. Bennett served as the president of the Tau Chapter of Phi Lambda Upsilon, the national chemistry honor society, and presided at the inaugural presentation of the Friend E. Clark Lecture Series in 1950. In 1954, he received his PhD in analytical chemistry from the University of Michigan.

Born in Rochester, Pennsylvania, Edna Peterson Bennett grew up in Beaver, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Beaver High School in 1949. She obtained a degree in child development in 1953 from Pennsylvania State University. Gene and Edna married on June 12, 1953, and raised six children: Karl, David, Linda, Susan, Carol and Alice.

Dr. Bennett entered the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant and was assigned to Wright Air Development Center in Dayton, Ohio, serving as a research chemist at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories, after earning his PhD. After completing his Air Force service in 1956, Dr. Bennett became a research chemist with E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware, where his area of study involved gas chromatography. Dr. Bennett and two colleagues formed F&M Scientific Corporation to produce gas chromatographs and other analytical instruments in 1959. The company merged with and became a division of the Hewlett-Packard Company in 1965. Dr. Bennett left Hewlett-Packard in 1968 to pursue other business ventures, including real estate developments; owning and managing a private country club; obtaining an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; and operating a manufacturing plant producing compact discs for the music industry. Dr. Bennett served on the Advisory Board of the WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences from 1990 until his untimely death in March 1996 at the age of 67.

Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce served on the Executive Committee and the Campaign Steering Committee for the Grand Destiny Campaign for Pennsylvania State University (PSU), which was completed in 2003, and served as the honorary chair for the Grand Destiny Committee for the College of Health and Human Development at PSU. At PSU, she endowed the Bennett Family Child Care Center and the Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development. Mrs. Bennett Pierce has served on several boards of the Silverside Church of Wilmington and was the former president of the Ann Judson Society (the Women's Group at Silverside). She served on the Board of Directors of the Delaware Symphony Association and the Opera Delaware. In recognition of her extraordinary service to WVU, Mrs. Bennett Pierce received the Order of Vandalia award, the highest honor at WVU, on May 15, 2012. Mrs. Pierce passed away in July of 2022.

In 1994, the Bennetts established an endowment in the amount of \$1.6 million to create the C. Eugene and Edna P. Bennett Careers for Chemists Program and the C. Eugene Bennett Chair in Chemistry at WVU. The Bennett Program acquaints high school students, undergraduate students and graduate students in chemistry with the variety of career opportunities that are available to them. The program brings professionals from throughout the country to campus to interact with students and discuss the usefulness of an education in chemistry as the basis for career opportunities. Professor Kenneth Showalter, an internationally respected researcher in nonlinear chemical dynamics, was named the C. Eugene Bennett Chair in Chemistry in 1996. During the Building Greatness Campaign: West Virginia University, Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce donated over \$2 million to the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Chemistry at WVU to establish the C. Eugene Bennett Chemistry Program Enhancement Fund, the C. Eugene Bennett Graduate Fellowship Program in Chemistry and the C. Eugene Bennett Academic Enrichment Endowment within the Eberly College. Resources were also made available to create an endowment for library acquisitions to directly benefit the Department of Chemistry. Additionally, recent gifts from Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce and the Bennett family total more than \$2 million and will create the C. Eugene Bennett Teaching Professorship in Chemistry, an additional academic enrichment fund for chemistry majors and an undergraduate scholarship program within the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry.

In the fall of 2003, the WVU Board of Governors gave the University permission to designate the Department of Chemistry as the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry in recognition of the philanthropy of Dr. Bennett and the continued generosity of Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce and the Bennett family. The department was named the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry on April 13, 2004. In conjunction with A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University, Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce provided a gift of \$200,000 in support of a project to renovate research laboratories in the department in 2013. In 2016, Mrs. Edna Bennett Pierce, together with the C. Eugene Bennett Family Foundation, provided a gift of \$1.5 million, in memory of C. Eugene Bennett, to renovate teaching laboratories in Clark Hall. The Bennett name will continue to represent an enduring philosophy of dedication and vision for future generations of chemistry students and researchers at WVU.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Gregory Dudley

Eberly Distinguished Professor of Chemistry
Department Chair

OPENING REMARKS

R. Gregory Dunaway

Dean
Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

PRESENTATIONS

Margaret Hilton, PhD

Assistant Professor
C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Simba Nkomo, PhD

Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Oxford College of Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Randy Province, PhD

Virginia Tech-Carilion Clinic Family Medicine Program
Rural Medicine Physician
Floyd, Virginia

DISCUSSION

Gregory Dudley

RECEPTION



Margaret Hilton

Assistant Professor
C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Margaret Hilton

MARGARET HILTON grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, to complete her BS degree in chemistry in 2012. Margaret participated in summer research at Trinity in organic and inorganic chemistry with Professors Nancy Mills and Bert Chandler, respectively. She was also involved in TWIST, a women in science club, the Chemistry Club and an on-campus sorority. She continued her education in organic chemistry at the University of Utah under the supervision of Professor Matthew Sigman, graduating with a PhD in 2017. In the Sigman group, Margaret studied and optimized several enantioselective palladium-catalyzed reactions, focusing on understanding mechanisms and underlying origins of selectivity using classical and modern techniques. Her dissertation won the department's Cheves T. Walling Award in 2017.

For her postdoctoral studies, Margaret worked in Professor Scott Miller's lab at Yale University as a NIH postdoctoral fellow, investigating peptide catalysts for the late stage modification of natural products, namely site selective epoxidation of geldanamycin. She also participated in the Yale chemistry recreational soccer team, the Round Bottoms.

Margaret joined the Department of Chemistry at West Virginia University in fall 2020. Her lab explores catalyst design for the development of site- and enantioselective organic transformations, the derivatization of functional group-rich targets and tools for understanding reaction mechanisms and molecular recognition.



Simba Nkomo, PhD

Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Oxford College of Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Simba Nkomo

SIMBA NKOMO was born and raised in Zimbabwe. He received a Bachelor of Science with Education in Chemistry and Mathematics from Bindura University of Science Education. After obtaining his degree, he taught high school chemistry for six years and then decided to go back to school. He got his MS in Science Education at the University of Zimbabwe in 2007. Upon completion, he taught at an international high school in Malawi and then moved to the United States in 2008 to pursue graduate work at West Virginia University. His research focused in the area of physical chemistry, studying the synchronization behaviors of coupled chemical oscillators in the laboratory of Professor Kenneth Showalter. Simba received his PhD in Chemistry from in 2014. His graduate work on Chimera states was published in Nature Physics and also featured in Physics Today magazine. While at WVU, he earned an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. Upon completing his graduate work, he accepted a faculty position as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at Bowdoin College, Maine. He joined Emory University in 2016 as a visiting assistant professor at the Oxford College of Emory University campus and then transitioned to an assistant professor tenure track position in 2018. Simba teaches foundational chemistry courses in Emory's Chemistry Unbound curriculum and also mentors undergraduate research students. His primary research focus is on understanding the origins of complex dynamics of networks of coupled chemical oscillators.

In teaching, his goal is to offer support that grows a student's dreams by fostering a positive learning environment and creating opportunities for undergraduate research through collaborations. In 2019, he participated in the AAC&U Project Kaleidoscope STEM Leadership institute. He is a member of the American Chemical Society Minorities Affairs Committee for Georgia section.

Outside of his work, Simba enjoys playing chess. He and his wife Ester live in Atlanta, Georgia. They enjoy traveling around the U.S. and abroad to learn about different places and cultures.



Randy Province, PhD

Virginia Tech-Carilion Clinic Family Medicine Program
Rural Medicine Physician
Floyd, Virginia

Randy Province

RANDY PROVINCE graduated from Preston High School in Kingwood, West Virginia, and later matriculated summa cum laude from West Virginia University in 2013 with a dual major (BS in chemistry and biology). While at WVU, she held numerous teaching roles in both departments, winning the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in Chemistry in 2012 and being awarded membership to Phi Lambda Upsilon. Her academic roles led to her selection as a founding 4-H STEM Ambassador of WVU's Extension Service, which provides science engagement opportunities for youths of West Virginia.

A graduate-level histology class led to her application and subsequent acceptance to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine where she fell in love with anatomy and its applications to musculoskeletal and manual medicine in preventative care. She specializes in osteopathic manipulative medicine, which she practices to this day. She was an avid participant of WVSOM's Rural Health Initiative and spent her clinical years as a medical student serving in the rural communities of West Virginia. In her third year, she was awarded the position of a graduate teaching assistant in anatomy and spent two years educating WVSOM's first-year medical students in the cadaver lab.

She completed her residency at the Virginia Tech-Carilion Clinic Family Medicine Program and went on to accept a position in their organization as rural medicine physician. Her practice is located in a small Appalachian farming community in Floyd, Virginia, which is a prominent regional destination for bluegrass and old-timey music. In her clinic, she practices full-scope primary care, serving all ages with a holistic, evidence-based approach to preventative medicine that focuses on lifestyle management.

She lives on a homestead in the Appalachian Mountains with her husband, Ben, and daughter, Sophia.

C. EUGENE AND EDNA P. BENNETT C

Previous Speak

2008

Norman D. Ferrari III
Senior Associate Dean
West Virginia University School of Medicine

Philip J. Grandinetti
Professor
Department of Chemistry
The Ohio State University

Ranjani Siriwardane
Group Leader
National Energy Technology Laboratory

2009

Christopher A. Ferguson
Consultant

Kelley Harris
Supervisory Counterfeit Specialist
United States Secret Service

Jennifer N. Sutton
Strategic Marketing Specialist
Thermo Fisher Scientific

2010

T. Brent Gunnoe
Professor of Chemistry
University of Virginia

Aaron J. Peoples
Manager of Natural Products
NovoBiotic Pharmaceuticals

Jan Steckel
Research Scientist
National Energy Technology Laboratory

2011

Paul W. Jagodzinski
Dean, College of Engineering, Forestry and
Natural Sciences
Northern Arizona University

Denis W.H. MacDowell
Emeritus Professor of Chemistry
West Virginia University

Kelly J. Suter
Associate Professor of Computational
Biology
The University of Texas at San Antonio

2012

David Bem
Global R&D Director
Dow Chemical Company

J. Michael Gaziano
Chief, Division of Aging,
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Laura Lawson
General Surgeon
Tennessee Breast Specialists

2013

William F. Carroll
Vice President, Industry Issues
Occidental Chemical Corporation

Cynthia Graves
Assistant Professor
General Surgery Resident
Program Director
Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center
West Virginia University

Glen P. Jackson
Ming Hsieh Distinguished Professor
of Forensic and Investigative Science
West Virginia University

2014

Anna L. Blobaum
Discovery Scientist
Project Team Leader
Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience
Drug Discovery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

T. Kevin Hitchens
Assistant Director
Pittsburgh NMR Center for Biomedical
Research
Carnegie Mellon University

Jennifer Robertson-Honecker
Assistant Professor
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
(STEM) Specialist
WVU Extension Service
4-H Youth Development Program

2015

Eric J. Adkins
Assistant Medical Director
of Emergency Services
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
and Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine
Wexner Medical Center
The Ohio State University

CAREERS FOR CHEMISTS PROGRAM

ers, 2008-2020

Jonathan W. Boyd

Assistant Professor
C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry
West Virginia University

Lauren W. Morgan Swager

Director, WVU Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry Fellowship
Assistant Professor
West Virginia University School of Medicine

2016

Brian J. Anderson

Director, West Virginia University
Energy Institute
GE Plastics Materials Engineering
Professor
Benjamin M. Statler College of
Engineering and Mineral Resources
West Virginia University

Stacy C. Confer

Director of Quality and Inspection
Readiness
Global Pharmacovigilance and
Epidemiology
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Princeton, New Jersey

Jeff M. Wallace

Senior Director, Global API Sourcing
Mylan Pharmaceuticals
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

2017

Stephen J. Valentine

Assistant Professor
C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Elizabeth Cox

Associate Professor
School of Medicine and Public Health
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

Ronald W. Clawson Jr.

Chief Science Officer and Global Technical
Director
RPM2/Kop-Coat, Inc.
Harmar Laboratories
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2018

Rip A. Lee

Primary Examiner
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, Virginia

Kay M. Brummond

Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and
Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Moser

Medical Toxicology Research Division
Chief
U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of
Chemical Defense
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

2019

Karen S. Evans

Assistant Secretary for the Office of
Cybersecurity,
Energy Security, and Emergency Response
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Joseph L. Kent

Intellectual Property Counsel, Bayer U.S. LLC
Law, Patents and Compliance Department
Indianola, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth A. Yates

Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry
United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, Maryland

2020

Joshua M. Osbourn, PhD

Teaching Associate Professor
C. Eugene Bennett Department of
Chemistry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

Alexandria Mullins, PhD

Technology Marketing Associate
Office of Licensing and Ventures
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

Daniel A. Harki, PhD

Department of Medicinal Chemistry
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota



West Virginia University

BENNETT
CAREERS
for
CHEMISTS

C. EUGENE AND EDNA P. BENNETT
CAREERS FOR CHEMISTS

Program Committee — 2023

Kenneth Showalter, Committee Chair

Stephen Valentine

Terry Gullion

Kung Wang

Gregory Dudley