

BIOGRAPHY

LYNCH, WILL E. *Coastal Georgia Section.* Georgia Southern University, Savannah, Georgia.

Academic Record: Kalamazoo College, B.A., 1986; Wayne State University, Ph.D., 1991.

Honors: Coastal Georgia Section ACS Service Award, 1999; Armstrong Atlantic State University Alumni Award for Service to the Discipline, 2004; Sigma Xi.

Professional Positions (for past ten years): Georgia Southern University, Department Chair and Professor, 2018 to date; Armstrong State University, Professor, 2005-18, Department Head, 2006-18.

Service in ACS National Offices: Council Policy Committee, Member (Voting), 2019-22, (Nonvoting), 2005-07; Committee on Strategic Planning, Member, 2019 to date; Committee on Strategic Planning, Goal 1 Subcommittee Chair, 2022, Committee on Strategic Planning, Roadmap Implementation Subcommittee Chair, 2020-21, Committee on Divisional Activities, 2017-18; Committee on Meetings and Expositions, 2011-16; Chair, 2013-15; Committee on Committees, 2008-10; Committee on Local Section Activities, 2002-07, Chair, 2005-07; Committee Associate, 2000-01; Committee on Planning, 2005-07.

Service in ACS Offices: *Coastal Georgia Section:* Councilor, 1999 to date; Chair, 2009, 1997; Chair-Elect, 1996, Noble Gas Editor, 2006, 1997-2000, Executive Committee, 1996 to date; *Southeastern Regional Meeting of the ACS:* SERMACS 2019, General Meeting Chair; SERMACS 2001, Program Chair; SERMACS 2001, Steering Committee, 1997-2001, Symposium Organizer, 125th Anniversary, ACS Charles Herty and the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory, National Historic Chemical Landmark, Symposium, 2001, Symposium Organizer, Advances in Modern Inorganic Laboratories, 2001; *ACS Southeastern Region:* Executive Committee, 2016 to date, Executive Committee, 2004-06, Treasurer, 2021 to date, Past-Chair, 2018, Chair, 2017, Chair-Elect, 2016, Past-Chair 2006, Chair 2005, Chair-Elect 2004. SERMACS 2022, XRD in the Southeast – Advances in X-ray Crystallography in Research, Symposium Organizer; SERMACS 2021, Multidentate Ligands in Inorganic Chemistry, Symposium Organizer; SERMACS 2019, X-ray Crystallography in the SE, Symposium Organizer, Bioinorganic Modeling, Symposium Organizer, 2006, SERMACS 2001, 125th Anniversary, ACS Charles Herty and the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory, Symposium Organizer; National Historic Chemical Landmark, Symposium, 2001, Symposium Organizer, Advances in Modern Inorganic Laboratories, Symposium Organizer.

Member (current): Member ACS since 1987. American Physical Society; Science History Institute; Council on Undergraduate Research; American Crystallographic Association. *ACS Division(s):* Professional Relations; Chemical Education; Inorganic Chemistry.

Related Activities: United States National Chemistry Olympiad College Mentor, 2008, 2007; Project SEED Coordinator, 2003; ACS Student Affiliates Advisor, 1996-99.

STATEMENT
Dr. Will E. Lynch

I remember 1984 and the CERM / GLRM joint regional meeting like it was yesterday. This was my first real exposure to the chemical enterprise and the American Chemical Society (ACS). The meeting was located in Kalamazoo and my undergraduate research mentor encouraged me to volunteer and attend the meeting even though I had barely started my research activities. I recall thinking about the diversity of the projects and how there was a big chemical world out there that was really cool, and I wanted to be a bigger part of it. So started my affair with the American Chemical Society, chemistry in general and my volunteer work for the Society.

What I have gained from my participation in the Society as a member, volunteer and researcher is incalculable. Friends, skills, leadership, knowledge, listening, decision-making, colleagues, and the infamous record of the longest time ever reporting out for the Committee on Meeting and Expositions on the podium at Council.

For the past 146 years, since our founding, the American Chemical Society has provided chemists the backbone of support necessary to grow professionally as their scientific home. Over the years our journals, membership programs and services have set the standard for every other scientific society in the world. Today our Society must continue to be nimble and evolve with the ever-changing needs of our members, profession, and information technologies.

I am proud of my Society and its work on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect. This includes the recent adoption of Goal 5 in our strategic plan: Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry. However, we still have much work to focus on to ensure that we are an open and inclusive Society. We, as a Society must be the light and the leader in our profession and community. Grassroots units, staff and the Board must all find ways to improve access for everyone who wants a seat at the laboratory bench. We must advocate for new and enhanced pathways and support for our membership to engage on this issue including mechanisms within the Society to break down all barriers that exist.

One strength of ACS is the outstanding publication and meeting infrastructure; we must continue to enhance the quality and diversity of these activities. As science continues to mature, we must continue to expand our interactions across traditional chemical disciplines as well as across other scientific professions. We need to engage in greater dialogue with materials scientists, our molecular and cellular colleagues, and others working in the physical, electronic, optical, and biological communities. Our focus should be laser sharp and build on our strength in information technology to continue to be a world leader.

Another strength of ACS is that we give community to our members and practitioners. Community is critical to the success of the society. One challenging aspect of this concept is to work hard to ensure our chemists re-engage in community after coming out of the pandemic and the ACS must provide many varied ways, such as through local section events, professional and technical meetings, and technology-based activities.

We must examine closely how to engage tomorrow's chemists as well as the practitioners who are not members. We have long had a strong and vibrant Student Affiliate program in ACS. Unfortunately, far too many young chemists and practitioners—many of whom are or will be in our

government and industrial sectors—are fully engaged as student members but do not participate in or maintain their involvement with the society upon graduation.

We need to work hard on this disconnect to build our Society and maintain its relevance moving forward. As our Society ages, becoming the home of our ever more diverse population and understanding what these chemists value and need is critical. Transitioning these chemists to engaged members is a key component of our future as the ACS. We must engage in real dialogue and personally champion this work. Let us together find a way to make the conversion from student member to engaged member a reality.

As always in the life of Will Lynch, it is a great day to be a chemist. I believe in our Society and its good work and would be proud to have your vote and represent you on the Board of Directors.