

# The Detroit Chemist

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Cassie Ward, Editor  
ward@wayne.edu

Photo courtesy of Thomas Knisley

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## Nomination for 2021 Section Officers and Councilors

The Section's Nominating Committee has selected a slate of candidates to run for the Detroit Local Section 2020 officer election. Below are the biographies for the following nominated 2020 Officers. Ballots will be distributed *via* email from [info@detroitacs.org](mailto:info@detroitacs.org) by November 1st.

### Slate of Nominees for Fall 2020 Election (2021 Officers)

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>          | Amy Hamlin (current Chair-Elect) |
| <b>Chair-Elect:</b>    | Matt Smith                       |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | Sue White                        |
| <b>Secretary:</b>      | Cassie Ward                      |
| <b>Councilor:</b>      | Mark Benvenuto                   |
| <b>Alt. Councilor:</b> | Michele Williams-Harry           |

## **Biographies of Nominees for Fall 2020 Election (2021 Officers)**

### **Biography of Amy Hamlin for Chair**



Amy Hamlin received a BS in Chemistry from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2009 and a PhD from the University of California Berkeley in 2014. She is currently working as a Technology Transfer Manager at Ash Stevens. During her undergraduate career she was involved with the ACS student affiliates at UDM holding various leadership positions and often volunteered with the Detroit Local Section events. As a graduate student, she was appointed to the ACS's Graduate Education Advisory Board from 2011 to 2014 where she worked with committees within the ACS to help better serve graduate student members. She has also contributed several articles to in Chemistry magazine, the ACS's undergraduate publication. Since returning to the Detroit Area in 2014 she has been an active member of the Detroit Location Section serving on the 2017 CERM planning committee and as Secretary (2017-2018), Treasurer (2019) and Chair-Elect (2020).

### **Biography of Matthew Smith for Chair-Elect**



Matthew Smith received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan in 2006, where he was an active member of the ACS student affiliates at the university and served as the chapter's vice president in 2005-2006. Matthew also received his Master of Science in Chemistry from Michigan State University in 2008.

Currently Matthew is employed by Lumigen, Inc. as a Senior Scientist where he, among other things, synthesizes novel chemiluminescent compounds for use in life science research and medical diagnostics in the manufacturing department since joining in 2010.

Since late 2014, Matthew has been an active volunteer for the Detroit Local Section, serving as Social Media Chair and Principal Photographer/Videographer since 2014, Treasurer from 2017 through 2018, and Secretary in 2019. In 2018, he was honored with the section's Distinguished Service Award and a Salutes to Excellence for Section Leadership and Administration

### **Biography of Sue White for Treasurer**



Sue White is the Laboratory Manager in the Matthew J. Allen Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry at Wayne State University (WSU). She received her BS in Honors Biochemistry and Chemical Biology as well as a second BS in Honors Biology from WSU. Sue completed her MA in Chemistry in April 2020 while working full-time. Her research focuses on lanthanide- and uranium-based chemistry including magnetic resonance imaging and photocatalysis. Sue co-writes research proposals for the Allen

Group and manages laboratory safety. She also serves as co-advisor of the WSU ACS Student Affiliates undergraduate chemistry club. Since 2015, Sue has been active member of the Detroit Local Section Executive Board serving as the Recognition Chair and the 2020 Secretary. Sue also served as the 2017 CERM Awards Chair.

### Biography of Cassie Ward for Secretary



Cassie received her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2008. As an undergrad, she was actively involved in the ACS chemistry club and served as the Treasurer for two years. She completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Kansas in 2014, then took a postdoc position at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill from 2014-2016. She then moved to Wayne State University as a postdoc in the Chemistry Department and the Lumigen Instrument Center. In 2018, she started a position as the Associate Director and X-ray Lab Manager in the Lumigen Instrument Center at WSU. She started volunteering for the Detroit Local Section of the ACS in 2018, started as the Newsletter editor in 2019, was awarded the Solutes of Excellence Award for service contributions in 2020 and is looking to serve for the first time as an officer in 2021.

### Biography of Mark Benvenuto for Councilor



Mark Benvenuto is a chemistry professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. He began in this position as an assistant professor in late 1993. An inorganic chemist, he maintains research interests in two broad areas. First is the synthesis of molecules that have value as water remediators. Second is the analysis of ancient and medieval artifacts, as well as food supplements and personal care products, both via X-ray fluorescence. If elected as a Councilor for our section, he will always listen to members and their concerns, and will continue to fight on the Council floor for membership dues to remain as low as possible.

### Biography of Michele Williams-Harry for Alternate Councilor



Michele Williams-Harry is originally from Seaford, Delaware. She received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Howard University, in Washington, D.C., and doctoral degree specializing in organic chemistry from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She later completed 1-year post-doctoral appointment at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan prior to beginning her career in the chemical industry at BASF, Corporation in Wyandotte, Michigan.

Michele has worked at BASF, Corporation for 12 and a half years and is currently a Sr. Research Scientist at the Wyandotte, Michigan site. Outside of her activities at BASF, Dr. Williams-Harry enjoys volunteering in community and chemistry organizations in the Detroit Metro area. She is currently the Minority Affairs Chair for the Detroit chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and has led the organizing teams for both the Girl Scouts' annual Chemistry Day (since 2018) and ACS activities at the Charles H. Wright museum. Michele was the Midwest Regional Chair for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) from 2016-2018, and has also served as a panelist for MSU's Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and PhD career panel.

Michele is seeking to continue in the position of Alternate Councilor.



American Chemical Society – Detroit Local Section – Younger Chemists Committee Presents:

# Brewing Chemistry

Detroit, Michigan

Brewing Chemistry is a monthly lectures series. These informal talks are designed to make science fun and accessible for all.

**ATTENTION - This is a Zoom presentation!**

**You must pre-register by Monday, November 9th to attend.**

**To register, please contact**

**Meghann at [313.993.1259](tel:313.993.1259) or [meghann@brewingchemistry.com](mailto:meghann@brewingchemistry.com)**

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**Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 7 PM**

# The Science of Whisky

with Optional Virtual Whisky Tasting\*

**Presented by:**

Don Livermore, Ph.D.,

Master Blender, Hiram Walker & Sons, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Don Livermore is the Master Blender of Hiram Walker & Sons Limited in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He is responsible for blending some of Canada's award-winning whiskies such as J.P. Wiser's, Lot 40, Pike Creek, and Gooderham & Worts. After graduation in 1996 from the University of Waterloo with a degree in microbiology, Don started his career in the distillery as a lab technician. At that time Don was a pioneer in developing techniques using NIR for fermentation analysis. This transformed how the distilling industry monitored fermentations and distillery processes. He wrote a chapter in the Alcohol Textbook 4th Edition and in the World Wide Distilled Spirits Conference in 2012 on the topic of NIR and has spoken around the world in this area of expertise. Don furthered his education by completing a MSc and PhD in Brewing in Distilling at Heriot Watt University with a focus on how wood interacts with whisky. In 2012, he became the Master Blender of Hiram Walker Distillery. Today, Don is a sought-after speaker on Canadian Whisky as he brings together all facets of distillery operations and maturation processes and how flavours are developed in whisky. He created the Canadian Whisky Flavour Wheel<sup>®</sup> which is a unique perspective on blending whisky.

[www.brewingchemistry.com](http://www.brewingchemistry.com)

\*Samples will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to Metro Detroit area residents who are 21 and over.

If you are interested in obtaining samples, please email [meghann@brewingchemistry.com](mailto:meghann@brewingchemistry.com) for more information.