

# The Blue Ridge Chemist

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Hollins University Hosts the February Meeting

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## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION

### AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

698<sup>th</sup> SECTION MEETING

Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

5:30 PM – Social Time

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM – Dinner

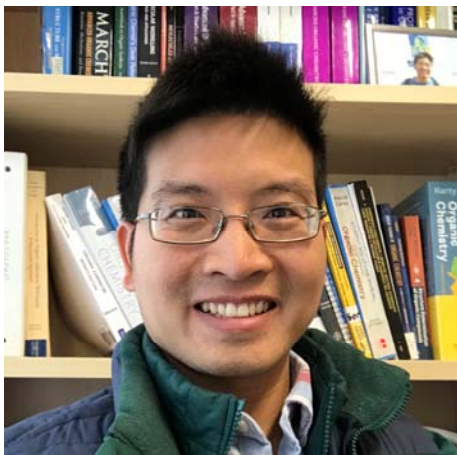
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Lecture

Dr. Son Nguyen, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Hollins University, will give a talk entitled “Let's go fishing: Catching cysteine containing proteins in cytoplasmic pools!” The social time, dinner, and talk will take place in the Private Dining Room of the Moody Center on the Hollins University campus.

The buffet will consist of Caesar salad, beef lasagna, vegetable lasagna, bread, and fresh fruit; iced tea; coffee; and hot water with tea packets. Meal cost is \$14, with students and retired members welcome to join the dinner at half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by Wednesday, February 6, seven days before the meeting, by phoning Daniel Derringer at (540) 362-7433, or by email to [dderringer@hollins.edu](mailto:dderringer@hollins.edu).





**Prof. Son Hong Nguyen, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Hollins University

Son Nguyen was born and raised in Vietnam. He moved to the US in 2004, living in the Boston area. Dr. Nguyen has A.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Bunker Hill Community College (2007), a B.S. in Chemistry from the UMass Lowell (2009), and a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry from Tufts University (2015). From 2015 until 2018, he was a postdoctoral fellow at UMass Worcester and then joined Hollins as Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

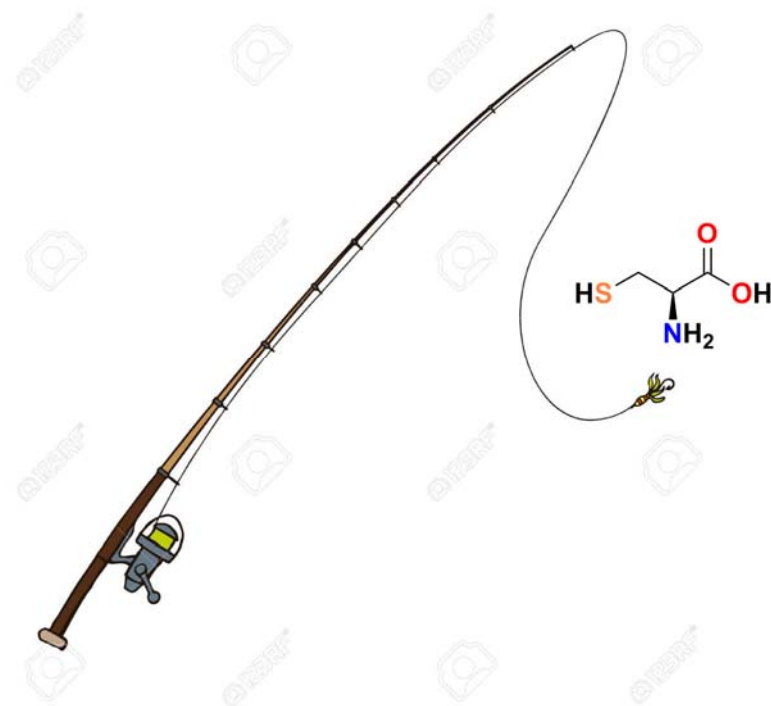
Dr. Nguyen said, “At Bunker Hill Community College, I had an amazing Organic Chemistry professor. His way of teaching fired up my love for chemistry. Taking chemistry with him was a turning point in my life. His inspiring influence motivated me to pursue a career in teaching. Just as he was for me, I hope to be an inspiring professor who can motivate students and impact their lives in positive ways.”

Dr. Nguyen’s research involves the design, synthesis, and evaluation of efficient probe detection of cysteine-rich proteins in biological settings.

## Lecture Summary

### Let's go fishing: Catching cysteine-containing proteins in cytoplasmic pools!

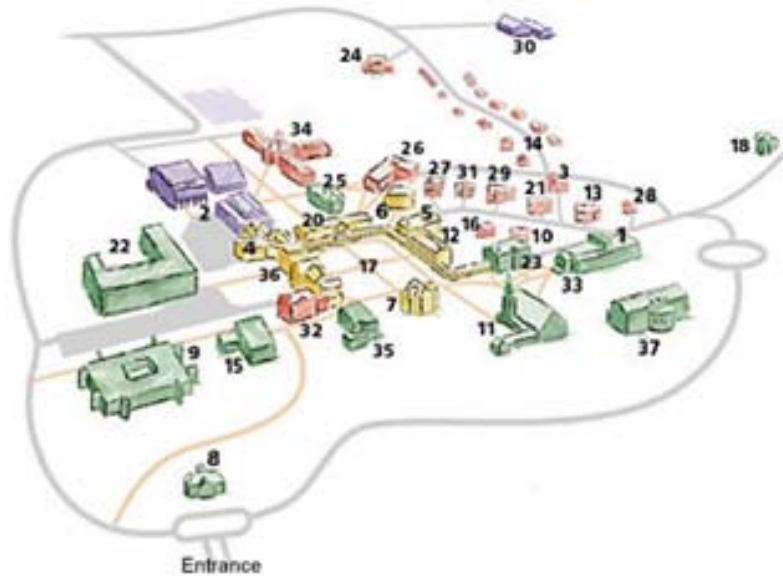
Along with glutathione, the biological thiol cysteine (Cys) plays important roles in many biological processes such as cellular detoxification and metabolism in living organisms. Changes in intracellular Cys concentration have profound effects on these biological processes. Given the critical importance of Cys homeostasis in biological systems, a strong interest has emerged in developing effective probes to detect and image Cys-rich proteins. In this presentation, I will talk about the synthesis and evaluation of probes I hope to make and use to labeled Cys-rich proteins in biological systems, especially in redox systems.



## Directions to the Moody Center, Hollins University

From I-81, take the Hollins exit (146) south toward Williamson Road (US-11) and turn left. The entrance to Hollins University is a little more than half a mile and is on the left. The meeting is in the Private Dining Room of the Moody Center (Building #22)

## Map of Hollins University



## Upcoming VBRS Meetings

March 2019 – Roanoke Valley Governor’s School  
April 2019 – Radford University – Poster Session & Awards!  
May 2019 – Tour of Luna Innovations (tentative), CBurg VA  
September 2019 – University of Lynchburg  
October 2019 – Virginia Tech  
November 2019 – Ferrum College

## Congratulations to our 2019 VBRS Elected Officers!

In November 2018, the Virginia Blue Ridge Section held its annual election of officers. The results of these elections are shown below.

**Chair:** Jason Crumpton  
University of Lynchburg  
[crumpton.j@lynchburg.edu](mailto:crumpton.j@lynchburg.edu)

**Chair-Elect:** Maggie Bump  
Virginia Tech  
[mbump@vt.edu](mailto:mbump@vt.edu)

**Secretary:** Samrat Thapa  
University of Lynchburg  
[thapa.s@lynchburg.edu](mailto:thapa.s@lynchburg.edu)

**Treasurer:** Steve Smith  
Roanoke Valley Governor’s School  
[ssmith@rvgs.k12.va.us](mailto:ssmith@rvgs.k12.va.us)

**Recorder:** Gary Hollis  
Roanoke College  
[hollis@roanoke.edu](mailto:hollis@roanoke.edu)

**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Deck  
Virginia Tech  
[pdeck@vt.edu](mailto:pdeck@vt.edu)

**Councilor:** Gary Hollis  
Roanoke College  
[hollis@roanoke.edu](mailto:hollis@roanoke.edu)

**Alternate Councilor:** Maria Puccio  
Ferrum College  
[mpuccio@ferrum.edu](mailto:mpuccio@ferrum.edu)