

The Blue Ridge Chemist

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Radford University Hosts the November Meeting (by Zoom)



Meeting Information

- 706th Meeting of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Society
- Keynote speaker: Erich Uffelman, Bentley Professor of Chemistry, Washington & Lee University
- Presentation: “Scientific Adventures with Technical Art History”
- **Agenda for Monday, November 15, 2021**
 - Zoom link <https://radford.zoom.us/j/99569666983>
 - Zoom password = 663156
 - Zoom meeting will open at 5:50 PM
 - Presentation at 6:00 PM
 - During the presentation, your Zoom microphone will be muted. You may enter questions for the presenter using the Chat feature or wait to the end.

Our Keynote Speaker

Erich Uffelman received his BS *magna cum laude* from Bucknell University in 1984 and his PhD in inorganic chemistry from Caltech in 1991. While at Caltech, Erich held an NSF Predoctoral Fellowship to study with Terry Collins, designing macrocyclic tetraamide ligands and metallation protocols to stabilize first-row transition metals in unusual oxidation states – work that was later recognized (and patented) for its utility in catalysis. After a postdoctoral stint at Stanford University with Jim Collman, Erich joined W&L in 1993 and continued his work in high-oxidation-state transition-metal chemistry. More recently his scholarly efforts have been directed toward technical art history, which involves the use of chemical techniques and instrumentation in the analysis of paintings, especially pigments and other coloring substances.



The famous masterpiece shown below is one of the many art objects that Erich has studied using various analytical methods. His work at W&L has taken him all over the world to share his expertise and passion for technical art history. He has also attracted funding from NSF and several private agencies and has involved over 80 undergraduate students in his research. Erich received the Outstanding Faculty Award for the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009 and was named Advisor of the Year by the students of W&L in 2017. In 2014 Erich was named Bentley Professor of Chemistry, and he is currently Department Head of Chemistry and Biochemistry at W&L.

Keynote: Scientific Adventures with Technical Art History

This talk will focus on mostly noninvasive methods of analyzing paintings. Relevant techniques discussed will be portable X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (pXRF), fiber optic reflectance spectroscopy (FORS), and especially multispectral and hyperspectral reflectance imaging spectroscopy (MSI and HSI). We will see how these techniques not only provide chemical information regarding the composition and degradation of old master paintings, but we will also see how these techniques inform art historical narratives.



“The Joy of Life” by Henri Matisse

Section News: Candidates for VBRS 2022 Officers

Members will receive a link to an electronic ballot on Monday November 15. If you have not received your ballot by 5 PM on Mon Nov 15, please contact Paul Deck (pdeck@vt.edu) for a survey link.

- Voting shall be completed by 5:00 PM on Monday November 29. The names of our 2022 officers shall be transmitted to ACS on Tuesday November 30.

As you can see, there is only one candidate for each office. According to our current practice of holding officer elections, members will have the opportunity to write in any eligible person if they do not wish to vote for a slated candidate.

Chair-Elect – Owen Lofthus, Virginia Western Community College, or write-in.

Secretary – Paul Deck, Virginia Tech, or write-in.

Treasurer – Jeremy Stegall, Eastman Chemical Company, or write-in

Councilor – Gary Hollis, Roanoke College, or write-in

Alternate Councilor – Jason Crumpton, University of Lynchburg, or write-in

Jesse Kern (Randolph College) was elected Chair-Elect for 2021 and will assume the position of Chair in 2022. Samrat Thapa (University of Lynchburg) was elected Chair-Elect for 2020, is presently serving as Chair, and will assume the position of Past Chair in 2022.

Visit our web page for more information and archives: <http://www.acs-vbrs.org>

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