

Thank You, Steve Ritter!

Stephen K. Ritter is the best-kept secret for the success of five ACS journals! Most readers and authors of our journals do not realize that there is a dedicated and talented team behind the scenes. As the Senior Managing Editor of *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Organometallics*, *Organic Letters*, *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, and *Organic Process Research & Development* over the years, Steve is the epitome of what was needed in this wide-ranging role. All of us can attest to his great competency and professionalism but, even more, to his calm, friendly, diplomatic, and always supportive personality, in spite of the huge amount of work he tackled every day. Steve has performed magic when he responded immediately to all our many questions—usually along with a suggestion on how to answer an author’s or reviewer’s query, how to invite Guest Editors, or how to find an even better way to start an editorial...

This being said: we will try it without Steve’s help this time, as Steve is retiring this month. We want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU of course, but we also thought we should let our journals’ readers know who has been the constant in 30 years of successful publishing at ACS in general and those journals in particular. Editors—including Editors-in-Chief—come and go, while the ACS staff remains. They therefore accompany several—or, as in this case, many—different Editors-in-Chief and need to determine their specific needs in the day-to-day business and also to help develop the journal over the long run.

In this regard, Steve has been terrific! We cannot recall a single instance in which his thoughts have not been spot on (why did not we come up with those ideas ourselves...?) and led to the right course in navigating a difficult conversation or arriving at the best decision in an inconclusive case. Steve guided all of us throughout our overlapping service and gave us incredible peace of mind in our daily workflow, individually and together with our teams.

Steve was born in North Carolina, USA. He completed his studies at Western Carolina University with a B.S. in industrial chemistry (1986), a B.A. in technical writing and editing (1989), and an M.S. in nuclear chemistry (focusing on Rn assessment, 1990). He received a Ph.D. degree in inorganic chemistry from Wake Forest University in 1993 and subsequently conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Idaho in the field of main-group fluorine chemistry to develop new polymers. Steve started his career at the American Chemical Society as Assistant Editor at *Chemical & Engineering News* in 1994, and over the years was promoted to Senior Editor. His expertise, and thus, his role as an Editor spanned the topics of inorganic chemistry, energy, and environmental science which included green chemistry, biomass conversion, natural resource management, and sustainability. He is credited

with more than 1,400 published articles.¹ As of January 2018, Steve has been working for ACS Global Journals Development as Managing Editor for the core ACS inorganic and organic journals named above, for which he has served as Senior Managing Editor until May 2024.

Steve has had a long track record of being an outstanding spokesperson for organic, inorganic, and organometallic chemistry and has clearly communicated and popularized complex scientific concepts to a more general audience for decades. Highlights at *Chemical & Engineering News* include: coverage of successes in green chemistry ([10.1021/cen-09526-scitech1](https://doi.org/10.1021/cen-09526-scitech1)), exploring the origins of a global sparteine shortage ([10.1021/cen-09517-scitech1](https://doi.org/10.1021/cen-09517-scitech1)), understanding the chemical bond ([10.1021/cen-09441-scitech1](https://doi.org/10.1021/cen-09441-scitech1)), and (at the time) new rules for electron counting ([10.1021/cen-v079n023.p104](https://doi.org/10.1021/cen-v079n023.p104))—a favorite of inorganic and organometallic chemists. He also wrote or cowrote several Editorials in the journals he was affiliated to, e.g., one together with the former Editor-in-Chief of *Inorganic Chemistry* William B. Tolman on the journal’s 60th anniversary ([10.1021/acs.inorgchem.1c03580](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.inorgchem.1c03580)). Fortunately, Steve’s science writing continues as he has been an author very recently of a book (together with Dennis N. Stamires) entitled ‘Toward Success in Biomass Conversion to Affordable Clean Energy’—how timely!¹ Steve’s talent as a writer (cf., the B.A.) and as a precise situational analyst greatly contributes to everything he does.

We have had great times with Steve in our monthly and Editorial Team meetings, at the Editors Conferences (including joint breakfast conversations and late-night discussions), in our personal conversations about the journals but—very importantly—also well beyond. Steve is a person you absolutely want as a co-worker and friend; he is always in good mood and has a delightful sense of humor. He never seeks to be the center of attention, but he is actually central to all of our work and we will miss him greatly.

We wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his chemical journey!

THANK YOU, STEVE!

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REFERENCES

(1) Stamires, D. N.; Ritter, S. K. *Toward Success in Biomass Conversion to Affordable Clean Energy*, Archway Publishing, Bloomington, 2023.