

PARIS SVORONOS
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Greek native Paris Svoronos received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University, under the late Dr. Vaclav Horak, in 1979. He was fortunate (and is grateful) to have been given the opportunity by, then Chair, Dr. Louis C.W. Baker, to teach the summer Organic Chemistry course at Georgetown, while still a graduate student and continued to do so over the summer for 31 years (1976-2007). He chose to work at Queensborough Community College-CUNY since 1981 because he is a strong believer that "in America nobody cares where you start from; instead you are judged by what you end up with". He has served in this institution and continues to do so ever since, as a full professor (1992-present) and departmental chair (2001-2010). To him the community college concept represents any person's second chance and rise from obscurity, and even failure, as long as focus, commitment, discipline and dedication are implemented.

Paris' idea of research applies to all the above, as well as, it reinforces the student's patience and critical thinking in figuring out why obtained data may not be reproducible. Although originally a synthetic organic chemist, his projects involve concepts taught in General Chemistry I and II, because he realizes that his students are not to stay at Queensborough for more than a couple of years before transferring. He has been successful in arranging for several hands-on experiences for his "kids" such as internships at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the New York City-Department of Environmental Protection (NYC-DEP) and several research hospital venues. He has been successful sending his most successful students to three dozen paid summer NSF-REUs and has served as the PI and co-PI for various grants totaling almost \$3,000,000. His best students serve as group tutors in a classroom setting, similar to the ones offered by teaching graduate students, thus overcoming both their language and self-confidence deficiencies. He started a (currently defunct) Honors Program at Queensborough in 2000 with two students and continued with it as its chair until 2016 hosting 12 continuous annual Honors conferences (2005-16) with the maximum of 230 oral presentations at the end. He encourages former successful alumni to visit and address his classes indicating the difficulties associated upon transfer. He is proud to have received the news of his 39th student, he is in touch with, who has either earned a PhD, an MD, a DDS or a veterinary degree. As a result of all these, he has had more than 275 presentations (oral or poster) by his own students at professional conferences- including CUNY's Einsteins in The City, as well as, the ACS NY Section-Undergraduate Research Symposia, various ACS regional (MARM, NERM, WRM) and, most importantly, ACS-National Meetings. He is an ardent believer that unless the students present their own findings at a larger audience, nobody will trust their resumes that indicate they have conducted research. He has guided and oversaw his students to the only two Barry Goldwater, six Jack Kent Cooke (all but one) and eight National ACS-Minority scholars in addition to several less prestigious ones.

Paris has authored/co-authored numerous peer reviewed papers, ACS-invited articles, lab and workbook manuals, reference books and has been in the list of co-authors of the annual issue of the CRC Handbook in Chemistry and Physics since 2013. He has also served as a member of the committee that prepares the National ACS-General Chemistry I/II for at least three years. In view of all of the above he has also been a reviewer for a dozen periodicals/ publishing venues.

Paris has been a great supporter of the ACS-NY section serving as its chair (2015), its Long Island subsection chair (2002), member of the MARM conference board (2008-General Chair, 2016-Program-Chair), the ACS-NY section Undergraduate Research Symposium co-host (2004, 2008

2015), the National Chemistry Week co-sponsor/table presenter (2015-present), Topical Group board (History of Chemistry chair, 2019-present; Microwave Chemistry co-chair, 2017-present), the 1996 2YC3 (co-chair) as well as the co-host of the monthly ACS-Long Island sub-section seminar at Queensborough (2010-present).

Paris has been selected as a member of the *Who's Who of American Teachers* (eight times) and the 32nd *Dictionary of International Biography*. As a result of all the above he was chosen as the 2003 CASE/Carnegie Endowment Foundation Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year nationwide that was celebrated in Washington DC, the first (and only one of a total of two) chemist ever. In addition, he was bestowed the ACS-Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences twice (2008- which he decided to share with his Queensborough colleagues and 2018), the E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society (2016), The American Chemical Society-New York Section, Volunteer Service Award (2016), the ACS-NY Section-Community College Professor of the Year award (2019) in addition to being selected as an ACS fellow (2018).