THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

February 2025, Vol. 62, No. 2

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Chair Column

Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

Dear Reader,

In this edition, I am delighted to welcome Michelle Rivard, Committee Chair of Midland Section Project SEED, to share her insights on Midland Section's hugely successful Project SEED program. Under her capable leadership, this long-standing program of the Section was revitalized in 2018 and continues to grow.

Midland Section ACS Project SEED Background

The Midland ACS Project SEED program is a transformative initiative designed to provide high school students with diverse social economic backgrounds with hands-on research experiences in the chemical sciences. By partnering with local industries and academic institutions, the program offers students the opportunity to work alongside professional chemists and gain valuable insights into the field of chemistry. This experience not only enhances their scientific knowledge and skills but also inspires them to pursue careers

in chemistry and related disciplines. The program has grown significantly over the years, now supporting 12-14 students annually, and continues to play a crucial role in fostering the next generation of chemical professionals.

Midland hosted its first SEED students (two students) in 1978. For many years, Midland had a very robust program, but due to legal concerns with hosting high school students in an industrial setting and budget constraints, along with increasing stipends, the program began to shrink in the early 2000s. Despite these setbacks, Midland maintained an active, albeit smaller, program for years by hosting one to three students each summer. Unfortunately, this downward trend persisted, and eventually, we were hosting a single student if we could find a qualified applicant.

In 2018, the coordinator at that time announced their intention to step down. As a member of the National Committee, I couldn't let our SEED program fold. So, in 2019, I stepped in as co-coordinator and took over the program in 2020, just in time for COVID to hit. This situation provided us with the opportunity to address challenges and strengthen our program. We have gone from hosting 2 students virtually in 2021 to hosting a total of 12 students in 2024. For the summer of 2025, we are looking to host 14-16 students, depending on our success in adding Alma College as a host site for 2025.

Impact of Project SEED

The Midland ACS Project SEED program has made a significant impact on the lives of high school students from low-income and economical diverse backgrounds by providing them with hands-on research experiences in the chemical sciences. Since its inception in 1978, the program has hosted over 150 students. This highlights the interest and effectiveness of the program in inspiring students to pursue careers in chemistry and related fields.

Despite challenges such as legal concerns and budget constraints, the program has continued to thrive, offering students valuable opportunities to work alongside professional chemists and gain practical insights into the field. The dedication of the program's coordinators, mentors, and the support from local industries and academic institutions have been instrumental in maintaining and expanding the program.

While COVID led to the closure of many Project SEED sites, Midland's program has emerged stronger than ever. Since 2021, we have hosted 25 students, with 14 of the 17 graduating seniors going on to attend a 4-year college or university. These institutions include the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Harvard University, Dickinson College, Western Michigan University, Oakland University, and Lake Superior State University, all pursuing education in STEM-related fields. Additionally, three out of eight eligible 2024 graduating students received a SEED Scholarship from National, with several others receiving other prestigious scholarships.

The impact of the Midland ACS Project SEED program extends beyond the students themselves. By fostering a well-trained and motivated workforce, the program contributes to the advancement of the chemical sciences and the overall development of the chemical industry. Additionally, the program strengthens the connection between academia and industry, ensuring that students are well-prepared for future careers.

Overall, the Midland ACS Project SEED program plays a crucial role in empowering students, enhancing their educational and career prospects, and promoting the importance of chemical education within the community.

Project SEED Testimonials

Ryan Thomas

SEED program - 2004, 2005

Current position - Associate Research Scientist, Dow Consumer Solutions.

My name is Ryan Thomas, and I am currently a Research Chemist at Dow. I was fortunate to be selected as a Project SEED student and performed research at Saginaw Valley State University over the summer following my junior year and senior year of high school. I was always very strong academically and had a strong interest in math and science, but I did not have role models in the scientific industry while growing up. My Project SEED experience granted me the chance to perform research with faculty at SVSU where I investigated the efficiency of low cost biosorbents. The experience provided me an opportunity to establish relationships with strong technical mentors and demonstrated the potential opportunities available in the future with a STEM degree, convincing me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at SVSU.

Link - The Midland Chemist April 2006 Midland ACS

Karmen Asch

Project SEED program - 1988

Current position - R&D/TS&D Technologist, Dow Consumer Solutions

My high school chemistry teacher nominated me for the Project SEED program after my Junior year at Meridian High School. For 10 weeks during the summer before my senior year, I drove to CMU in a car my brother gave me for that experience. Prior to that summer, I had no intention of attending college, but I had always taken the college prep classes throughout my high school years because my friends were all planning to go to college.

There were two of us in the Project SEED program at CMU that summer in the science department. two openings available for us to choose from were Organic Chemistry lab work with Dr. Dillip Mohanty and a Computer science role with Professor Jamie Wu. The other girl from Shepherd asked which I preferred, and I told her it didn't matter to me, so she chose the computer science role, leaving me with Dr. Mohanty in the Organic Chemistry lab. I worked alongside three graduate students: Peter Balanda (with whom I remain friends today), Atul Bhatnagar and Jimmy Hall. They all were helpful and had a profound impact on me and my decision about my future plans.

I ended up enjoying the work within the lab so much that I decided to attend CMU after my senior year in high school and go into Chemistry. At the end of the 10-week program, Dr. Mohanty helped me prepare a poster to present at the ACS Event at Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center. I was named a contributor in "Synthesis and characterization of processable aromatic poly(azomethine)s with ether linkages" (Makromol Chemistry, Vol 194, pp. 2779-2787, revised 1993).

I'm sure that experience led to me becoming a high school co-op in 1989 at Dow Corning.

Past testimonials of Midland Section Project SEED students and links to relevant Midland Chemist articles:

The Midland Chemist May 2024 – Midland ACS

The Midland Chemist – February 2009 – Midland ACS

The Midland Chemist – June 2008 – Midland ACS

The Midland Chemist – December 2007 – Midland ACS

Biography of the 2025 Project SEED Committee

Michelle Rivard is a research and development technologist at Dow, where she has made significant contributions to the development of robust quantification methods for cyclic volatile methylsiloxane (cVMS) and official validated test methods for Dow's internal operations and external manufacturing. She has received numerous accolades, including the 2018 ACS National Chemical Technician Award, the 2019 E. Ann Nalley Central Region Award for Volunteer Services, and is a 2023 ACS Fellow. Michelle currently serves on the Committee of Chemical Technical Professionals and as the secretary of the Division of Analytical Chemistry. She has held several positions within the Midland Section of ACS and is the Midland Section Coordinator of Project SEED.

Justin Massing is an Associate Research Scientist at Dow, specializing in process optimization and scale-up within Core R&D. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan–Flint, where he led a research program on reaction-based probes and taught numerous lecture and laboratory courses. Justin holds a Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire and conducted postdoctoral research at Northwestern University. He lives in Midland with his family and enjoys traveling, cooking, running, and playing games in his free time.

Joseph Vasquez is an Associate Research Scientist at Dow. He specializes in NMR spectroscopy with an emphasis in silicones characterization. He attended CU Denver for his BS in Chemistry and UW-Madison for his PhD, also in Chemistry. Before returning to school, he was an automotive mechanic for a decade. Outside of work, Joseph enjoys fishing, gardening, and spending time with his family.

If you are interested in serving on the Project SEED committee in any capacity or if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to Michelle Rivard or Krishnaja Duvvuri (chair@midandacs.org).

Former Midlander is first Black woman to lead American Chemical Society
Dan Chalk, Managing Editor, Midland Daily News

Editor's note: This article is reprinted, in part, from the Wednesday, February 12, 2025, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Dan Chalk (chalk@mdn.net) authored the original article for the *Midland Daily News*.

Dorothy Phillips feels 'blessed' to be able to inspire young people


Christine Brennan Schmidt./
Dorothy Phillips

Growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, Dorothy Phillips had a goal to become president of the United States of America.

While she hasn't reached that goal, the former Midland resident and Dow chemist has achieved many firsts as a Black woman in the United States — the latest of which is to serve as president of the American Chemical Society.

"When I was around 12 or 13 years old, my goal was to become a lawyer and president of the United States," she said. "For an African-American girl in the South, that was probably just dreaming. I knew I wanted to do something strong and significant."

That desire to reach for high goals was cultivated in Nashville, where Phillips grew up as the third of eight children and her father was a Baptist minister.

"We grew up in a household that was faith-led," she noted.

She attended segregated schools, but in 1956 her family became one of the first Black families to move to Murphy Avenue in the mostly white neighborhood of Centennial Park in Nashville. Her brother, as a student at Fisk University, participated in the Nashville Sit-Ins that led to the desegregation of lunch counters and eventually other public facilities in that city.

"So that was a big impact on me growing up," Phillips said.

During high school, she attended a six-week US National Science Foundation summer program for Black students.

After graduation, Phillips initially attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, before enrolling at nearby Vanderbilt, which had only recently been integrated. In 1967, she became the first Black woman to earn an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt — an accomplishment that she said means more to her than any other hurdle that she has conquered.

That was soon followed by another celebration, as she and her husband James were married. Both of them then enrolled in doctorate chemistry programs at the University of Cincinnati, where Phillips' brother, Robert C. Wingfield Jr., was already studying.

Phillips then became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Cincinnati. Her doctorate work involved studying the conformation of the protein coat of the single-stranded RNA virus R17 using circular dichroism spectroscopy.

During her graduate studies, she was collaborating with a Dow scientist, Dr. Patrick Oriel. A few years later, when she and James were looking for a company where both could work - she in biochemistry and he in organic chemistry - Dow ended up being a good fit for them. Phillips' brother, Robert, was already working there.

So, the Phillips family moved to Midland in 1974.

While working in central research at Dow, Phillips also became very involved in the Midland community with James and their three children - Anthony, Crystal and Vickie.

They connected with the small number of other Black families living in Midland thanks in large part to the Midland Black Coalition, which her brother and others had helped to organize.

"Midland was just starting to diversify its community," Phillips said. "So the Midland Black Coalition offered an opportunity for those families to get together and support each other. The number was so small that my children were just not seeing any other Black people unless we were intentional about it."

She said the coalition organized activities including Black History Month programs and a Christmas party for kids at Aldersgate Church, where the Phillips family attended.

"It was a way to bring the culture that we embraced to Midland," Phillips said.

She was also a charter member of Midland's Mu Alpha Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, which was chartered in 1978. The international service organization was founded in 1908 and is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women.

Although Phillips hasn't lived in Midland for 40 years, she still stays in touch with people she knew there. Her family left Midland in 1983 when James was hired by Corning Medical in Boston and she was hired by Waters, a company where she spent 29 years before retiring in 2013.

Staying engaged in the chemistry profession, Phillips served nine years on the board of directors of the American Chemical Society before serving as president elect in 2024 and now president for 2025.

"I had a vision of what I would want to bring into the spotlight (as president)," she said.

"Inclusion and belonging" is one of the American's Chemical Society's core values, and lifelong learning is another emphasis for Phillips as president.

"My theme is building chemistry careers inclusively. So I want to help ACS to continue to embrace and engage its industry members. But the big thing is to be a catalyst for young people and aspiring scientists," she said.

"If you can move the needle a little bit, I think that's important. More and more young people can go into a two-year program and work in STEM. Young people who can't afford college, there is an avenue for them in the sciences," Phillips continued.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have long been an emphasis for the American Chemical Society, and around 2020, that expanded to become Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect.

"We have put in place an office of DEIR with a vice president," Phillips said.

The American Chemical Society has a partnership with the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, among other affiliate groups.

Looking back at her remarkable achievements, and forward at the rest of her presidential tenure and beyond, Phillips is grateful.

"What comes to mind now is I am blessed. This is not a life I could have dreamed," she said. "The fact (is) I have walked a path with God that has led me to this point, (so) I have to be there for other young people to let them know they can achieve against all odds. So I feel blessed."

Announcing the 2025 Spring Awards Recognition Banquet and Call for Nominations

Wendy Flory and Tami Sivy, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Midland Section ACS

The 34th annual American Chemical Society-Midland Section Spring Awards Recognition Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at the Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center in Midland. Please consider taking a moment to read about the awards that are open for nominations and consider nominating a worthy peer. Details of the program, including the featured speaker, are still being finalized. Watch for the *Midland Chemist* March issue for all the information and how you can register to attend.

The awards program is about recognizing outstanding educators, volunteers, and colleagues that you have graciously taken the time to nominate. The awards banquet is a great way to connect with others in the industry, those who have gone before us, those who teach the next generation, and those who will be following in our footsteps. Please consider joining us on Wednesday, April 30. We continue with the goal of having outstanding students from all area high schools and universities/colleges recognized, and to have a nominee for each award offered this year. Please help make this happen as there are very deserving people in every category!

The process of nominating is very easy. The minimum submission criteria for nominations are a quality nominating letter extolling the virtues of your nominee and supporting the criteria of the award, along with one supporting letter of recommendation, two are even better; outstanding high school and collegiate student awards require only the nomination form (see page 10) submitted by the appropriate chemistry teacher or department head. The letter must state why the nominee is deserving of the award with specific examples of professional involvement/growth, contributions to industry, and outside affiliations. It is highly recommended that the nomination includes a publications and patent list where applicable. Additional letters of support can come from students, parents, community members, and/or administrators. An example nomination letter can be requested from the awards committee co-chairs via email.

Consider getting your colleagues together for lunch and putting together a nomination packet. If you are in a managerial role and are worried about favoritism, consider nominating two to three qualified persons (you will remain anonymous, if requested, and nominations are considered for three years). If you would like to be considered for an award, there is the option to self-nominate. If you are a parent, consider nominating your child's outstanding science or chemistry teacher, or a science volunteer you know. It takes less than an hour to put together an award-winning letter and an additional 15 minutes soliciting supporting letters. Think of what it will mean to that person and how good you will feel about your generous deed.

Previous award recipients are listed on pages 9 to 13 of the January edition of the newsletter at The Midland Chemist - January 2025 (midlandacs.org), as nominees must not have received the award that they are being nominated for within the past ten years. Nominations not meeting the minimum requirements, and submissions received after the **Sunday, March 23, 2025, deadline**, will not be considered.

Please reach out if you have any questions to Wendy Flory (wcflory@dow.com) or Tami Sivy (tsivy@svsu.edu), Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs .

Call for Nominations: 2025 Teaching, Volunteer, Education, and Chemical Sciences Awards

Wendy Flory and Tami Sivy, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society presents awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the chemical sciences each year. Nominations for the 2025 awards are invited for the following areas:

- Outstanding Achievement: Elementary Level Science Teaching
- Outstanding Achievement: Middle Level Science Teaching
- Outstanding Achievement: High School Chemistry Teaching
- Outstanding Achievement: College Chemistry Teaching
- Science Education Volunteer of the Year
- Outstanding Achievement in the Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences, and Engineering ***(awarded every other year)***
- Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences
- Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society
- Outstanding Chemical Technician
- Outstanding High School / College Chemistry Students
- Team Innovation Award

Additional details regarding the awards are available on pages 5 and 6 of the January edition of the newsletter at The Midland Chemist - January 2025 (midlandacs.org).

The deadline for all nominations is Sunday, March 23, 2025. Nominations not meeting the minimum requirements, and submissions received after the March 23 deadline, will not be considered. Mail or fax submissions are acceptable; *electronic (email) submissions are preferred*. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, position, address, and phone number of the nominator.

Award recipients as well as Chemistry Olympiad winners, National Chemistry Week Poem Contest winners, and Fifty/Sixty/Seventy Year ACS Members will be honored with certificates or plaques and featured in an article in the *Midland Chemist*.

The Awards Committee greatly appreciates the efforts involved in nominating someone and wishes to thank you for helping to recognize deserving students, colleagues, and educators in our local section. Please pass this information along to anyone involved in our local science programs!

The National ACS has many great awards available as well. The links to the web addresses where you can find the list of awards and the criteria for nomination are listed on page 11. Now is the time to begin nominations for National ACS awards for 2025-2026 as most annual reviews have a deadline of around November 1, 2025.

For more detail on any award, please contact Wendy Flory (wcflory@dow.com) or Tami Sivy (tsivy@svsu.edu), Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs.

American Chemical Society – Midland Section

Nomination Form for 2025 Outstanding High School / Collegiate Chemistry Student

(Note: One nominee per school, please)

Dept. Chair or other Nominator: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address (required): _____

School: _____

****

Student's name: (Mr./Ms.)_____
(*Indicate*) (*Please print legibly*)

Home address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address (required): _____

Student's career/postgraduate plans (if known):

_____

_____

_____

Please return this form to the following addresses no later than **Sunday, March 23, 2025:**

Wendy Flory (wcflory@dow.com) or Tami Sivy (tsivy@svsu.edu)
Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs

ACS National Awards for 2025–2026 Nomination

Wendy Flory and Tami Sivy, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Midland Section ACS

Editor's note: Several Midland Section ACS members have received various National ACS awards over the years. A list of past recipients may be found in the January edition of the newsletter at The Midland Chemist - January 2025 (midlandacs.org).

Criteria and deadlines for the National ACS awards, and other grants and considerations, can be found at http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/national/nominations.html.

The full list of National ACS awards by title can be found at https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/national/bytopic.html**.**

WCC Global Women's Breakfast, February 11

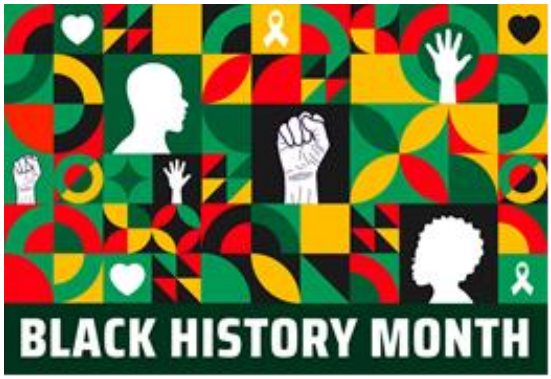
Ashlin Sathyan, Women Chemists Committee, Midland Section ACS

Midland Section ACS Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Global Women's Breakfast event presentation, *"Overcoming the Barriers to Gender Equality in Science,"* Mi Element Grains and Grounds, 3124 Jefferson Avenue, Midland. Co-presented by Erin Vogel (Dow), Melinda Keefe (Dow), and Janice Hall Tomasik (CMU). Free event, cosponsored by Midland Section ACS, Women Chemists Committee, and IUPAC. For more information, please contact Ashlin Sathyan at ashlin.sathyan@dupont.com.

ACS Celebrates Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers

Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from material provided in an email message posted to all ACS members, dated Tuesday, February 4, 2025.



In celebration of Black History Month, ACS proudly honors the numerous Black chemists and chemical engineers who have overcome adversity, advanced scientific knowledge, and contributed to global change. We also recognize the Black scientists who continue to inspire us today. To showcase the achievements of these remarkable individuals, ACS Publications **curated a special selection of research and resources** in 2024.

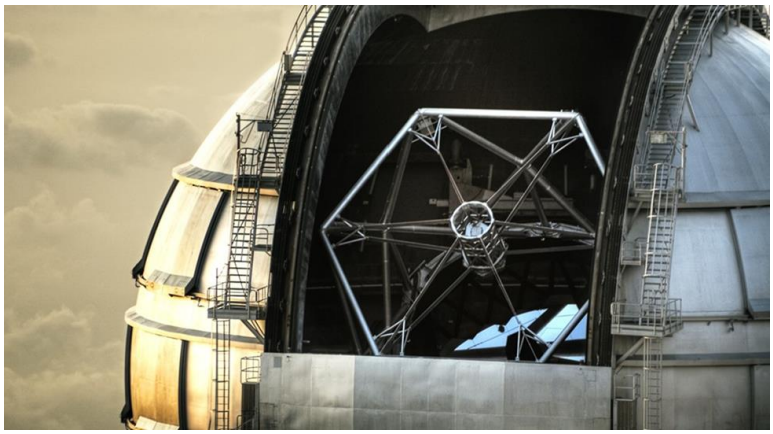
Historic Black Chemist: St. Elmo Brady:

St. Elmo Brady made history as the first Black American to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry. His groundbreaking achievements didn't stop there; Brady played a pivotal role in developing chemistry curricula, faculty, programs, and facilities at four major historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Through his dedication, Brady and his colleagues mentored countless generations of African American chemists, leaving an indelible mark on the chemical enterprise.

Brady's life and work continue to inspire all who learn about his legacy. In recognition of his lifelong contributions, ACS honored him with a **National Historic Chemical Landmark**. This prestigious designation was celebrated at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where Brady earned his Ph.D. in 1916, and at the four HBCUs where he held leadership roles: Tuskegee University, Howard University, Fisk University, and Tougaloo College.

Family Astronomy Night, Telescopes: The Instrument that Changed the World Forever, February 27
Robin McGuire, Science Educator, MSU St. Andrews, Midland

Registration link: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ynZlL0DtSLq2_JwJzkRw5g
Telescopes: The Instrument that Changed the World Forever
Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7 PM EST
MSU-St. Andrews STEM Center **(Virtual only)**



Did you know that the telescope was invented multiple times? What are the different kinds of telescopes? How does each of them work? What kind of telescopes did the great astronomers of history use, and what did they discover with the equipment available to them? How do those telescopes differ from the ones that astronomers use today? How large are research telescopes—and why is size important? What kinds of telescopes can you buy and use yourself? Join Dr. Edmund Stark and the MSU-St. Andrews STEM Center by Zoom to learn more!

Adults and families with school-age or older children are invited to join MSU-St. Andrews virtually for a presentation on telescopes. We will tell the story of the invention (and re-invention) of the telescope throughout the ages and will show how this immediately and completely changed the practice of astronomy, as well as our fundamental understanding of our universe. We will examine the many kinds of telescopes, so that you can understand how different versions actually work and will reveal the strengths and weaknesses of each type. Along the way, we will describe some of the telescopes used by history's greatest astronomers, and what they discovered with them. We will summarize the largest telescopes being used today. Perhaps more importantly, we will also discuss what kinds of scopes are available for beginning amateur astronomers.

Plus, we will also talk about what we can see with our own eyes, without telescopes, in the beautiful nighttime skies of March. Most important: a total lunar eclipse will be visible from Michigan! Plus, Jupiter and Mars are visible all night, Venus shines brightly at sunset for a few weeks, and Mercury joins Venus at sunset during that same period. The landmark constellation of Orion is still in the sky and points the way to all the constellations in the Winter Hexagon, like Taurus, Auriga, Gemini, and Canis Major + Canis Minor, the big and little dogs. Winter skies have the brightest constellations of the year; don't miss them! We will show you how to find all these things (and more) for yourself.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Midland Section ACS Scholarship Fund Reaches Nearly $78,000

Wendell and Marcia Dilling, Past Historians, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section ACS scholarship fund is slowly approaching its $100,000 goal [*The Midland Chemist* **2024**, *61*, No. 11 (November), p 14; No. 12 (December), p 29]. The scholarship fund is administered by the Midland Area Community Foundation. The most recent matching grant of nearly $1,900 has been contributed which brings the total in the fund to $77,889.27. Only $22,110.73 is needed to reach the $100,000 goal.

When the goal is reached, three or four scholarships can be granted each year instead of the two which have been granted per year in recent years or the value of each scholarship can be increased.

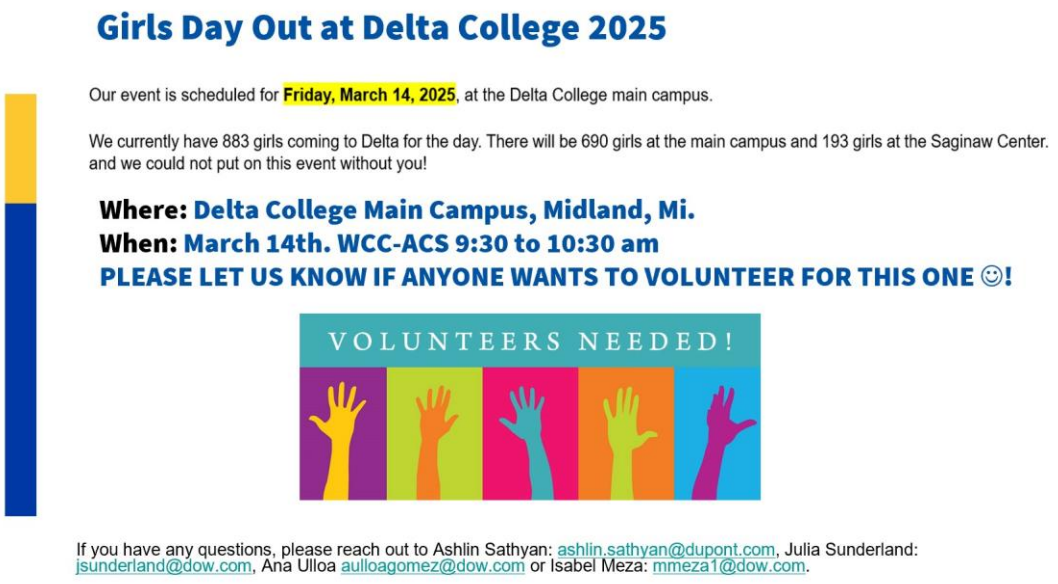
Our scholarship fund has had fewer applicants historically than other local ones. A possible reason for this may be due to the amount offered, so we think that reaching the stated $100,000 goal and being able to give more to worthy students would help us get more applicants. We don't think many other ACS Sections offer such scholarships, so our fund is also another point of distinction between our wonderful members and those elsewhere.

Please consider contributing to this worthwhile cause. If you have any questions about contributing to the Midland Section ACS Scholarship Fund, please call the Midland Area Community Foundation at 989-839-9661. Thank you.

Girls Day Out at Delta College, March 14

Ashlin Sathyan, Women Chemists Committee, Midland Section ACS

Please join us for our next Girls Day Out at Delta College, Friday, March 14, 2025. Volunteers are needed at two Delta College locations – the Main Campus where 690 girls have registered to attend and at the Saginaw Center where 193 girls have registered to attend. Cosponsored event by the Midland Section ACS and Women Chemists Committee. For more information, please contact Ashlin Sathyan at ashlin.sathyan@dupont.com.



ACS Spring 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, March 23-27

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated December 12, 2024, and January 2, 2025.

Join us in San Diego or online for the ACS Spring 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, March 23-27, 2025. Experience sessions from 30-plus ACS technical divisions, opportunities to make lasting career connections, professional development courses, and networking that only can be gained by attending an ACS National event. Be among 13,000-plus industry and academic leaders, researchers, and influencers as they share ideas and discuss ways to advance scientific and technological knowledge in person and virtually.

Five virtual meeting experiences are available as part of the ACS Spring 2025 National Meeting & Exposition:

Division/Committee Technical Sessions – Experience the latest research curated by ACS Technical Divisions covering a wide range of topics from industry leaders in the chemistry community.

Virtual Graduate Student Asia-Pacific Symposium – A unique opportunity for students in the Asia-Pacific Region to showcase their latest research in Surface Science & Catalysis, Biomaterials & Biointerfaces, Computational Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, and more.

Global Virtual Symposium (GVS) – High-quality content with an emphasis on global issues like climate change, renewable energy, and health innovation. The virtual meeting opportunity focuses on the core classics of chemistry – organic, inorganic, materials, and physical chemistry.

Professional Development – Sessions that are designed to help chemists advance their careers, enhance technical expertise, and strengthen essential skills like grant writing.

Digital Networking – Interactive sessions for attendees to test their skills through various games like trivia, puzzle solving, and more.

For more information and to register, go to ACS Spring - American Chemical Society.

21st Annual MSU ChEMS Department Research Forum, May 6

MSU ChEMS Department, East Lansing

The Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science (ChEMS) at Michigan State University invites you to join us at the 21st annual ChEMS Department Research Forum on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. The forum is a full-day event, running from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and will be held at the MSU Union, 49 Abbott Road, East Lansing, on the campus of MSU. This one-day meeting will feature invited plenary speakers, oral presentations from faculty and staff, and extended poster sessions describing the latest department research results.

Please note that this year's ChEMS Research Forum is being held much earlier in the year (May instead of August) than that of the past several Research Forum programs. Please also note that this year's ChEMS Research Forum is being held at a different location than that of the past several Research Forum programs.

The **21st Annual ChEMS Research Forum** will showcase departmental research advances in the areas of:

- Energy and Sustainability
- Nanotechnology and Materials
- Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering

If you or your company shares an interest in chemical engineering and materials science, then this event offers a uniquely personal and informal view into the general research directions of the ChEMS department, its current research projects, and, most importantly, an opportunity to get to know the many talented graduate students that are at the heart of it all.

The full agenda for this forum will be available later. Please watch for updates at 2025 ChEMS Research Forum.

Pre-registration for the forum is requested. Please register for the event at 2025 ChEMS Research Forum. For more information, call the MSU ChEMS Department at 517-355-5135, or send an inquiry by email to chems@egr.msu.edu.

2025 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series, June 3

Karol Miller, Administrative Assistant, The Axia Institute, MSU St. Andrews, Midland

MSU St. Andrews is pleased to announce that arrangements are beginning for the 2025 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series. Our guest lecturer this year will be Prof. Karen I. Winey, Harold Pender Professor of Engineering and Applied Science, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Pennsylvania.

Tentative arrangements are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Location: MSU St. Andrews, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, Midland
Guest Lecturer: Prof. Karen I. Winey

Prof. Karen I. Winey

About Karen Winey

Karen I. Winey is the Harold Pender Professor of Engineering and Applied Science with a 50:50 appointment between the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Karen

earned her Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and joined the Penn Engineering faculty after a brief postdoc at AT&T Bell Labs. Karen has made significant contributions to the field of polymer science, particularly in the understanding of and manipulation of unique polymer nanocomposites and ion-containing polymers. She has a strong record of service including as an Associate Editor for Macromolecules, Chair of the Division of Polymer Physics within the American Physical Society, Department Chair of Penn's Materials Science and Engineering Department, and a variety of advisory boards.

Research Interests

The focus of the Winey research group is hierarchical and nanoscale morphologies in polymers and connecting these morphologies to the underlying chemical structure as well as the mechanical, thermal, and transport properties of the materials. We employ a variety of experimental and computational tools to probe the structural and physical properties of advanced polymers including X-ray scattering, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, and time of flight SIMS. Targeting a variety of energy-related and membrane applications, we study and design functional polymers to improve selective ion and proton conductivity. In polymer nanocomposites, our current interests focus on nanoparticle dynamics across a range of time and length scales. Our newest project focuses on polymer-to-polymer upcycling to convert waste polyolefins to higher value polymers. Our dynamic and highly cited research group is currently funded by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Basic Energy Sciences, and industry.

Additional information will be coming along with a registration link for the Tuesday, June 3, 2025, program, but please save the date and block your calendars now. For more information, please contact Karol Miller at mill2785@msu.edu.

Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM 2025), June 4-6

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated January 23, 2025.

Abstracts are now being accepted for the **2025 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM)**. GLRM 2025 will be held from Wednesday to Friday, June 4 - 6, 2025, in Appleton, WI, hosted by the Central Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Local Sections.

This year's theme is ***Chemistry for a Better Planet***. Chemistry has led to hundreds of innovative solutions over the last several centuries and it will continue to do so. Chemistry helps us gain a better understanding of the world around us, in all facets of life – health care, environmental science, and more. Chemistry and the planet are closely intertwined with one another and there are connections at all different levels and scales. With this

theme, we hope to encourage curiosity and ingenuity to explore and discover all the possibilities that exist between the two.

Visit the website to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia open for submissions.

The deadline to submit an abstract is Monday, March 3.

ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, August 17-21

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated January 8, 2025.

We are now accepting abstracts for the ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition. This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Washington, DC, and globally from August 17-21, 2025. Abstracts for virtual, in-person, and poster presentations for open symposia are being accepted by nearly 30 program divisions. Please see **ACS Fall 2025**.

This is your chance to share your research with the chemistry community. ACS Fall 2025 brings together chemistry professionals, educators, and students worldwide to discover and share research, network, and advance careers. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for professionals and students to showcase their work and connect with colleagues in all areas of chemistry. Visit the website to learn more about the symposia open for submission.

The deadline to submit an abstract is Monday, March 31.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- February 3 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at February 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- February 11 (8:30 – 10:00 AM) – Midland Section ACS Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Global Women's Breakfast event presentation, *"Overcoming the Barriers to Gender Equality in Science,"* Mi Element Grains and Grounds, 3124 Jefferson Avenue, Midland. Co-presented by Erin Vogel (Dow), Melinda Keefe (Dow), and Janice Hall Tomasik (CMU). Free event, cosponsored by Midland Section ACS, Women Chemists Committee, and IUPAC. For more information, please contact Ashlin Sathyan at ashlin.sathyan@dupont.com.
- February 27 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Virtual Astronomy Night presentation (virtual only), *Telescopes: The Instrument that Changed the World Forever*, MSU St. Andrews STEM Center, Midland. Register to receive the Zoom link at https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ynZlL0DtSLq2_JwJzkRw5g. For any questions, contact Robin McGuire, MSU St. Andrews Science Educator, at rmguire@msu.edu.

- March 3 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at March 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- March 3 – **Abstract submission deadline for 2025 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM).** Meeting theme: *Chemistry for a Better Planet*. Hosted by the Central Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Local Sections, Appleton, WI, June 4-6, 2025. For more information, go to GLRM 2025.
- March 14 (9:30 – 10:30 AM) – Girls Day Out at Delta College event. Volunteers are needed at two Delta College locations – the Main Campus where 690 girls have registered to attend and at the Saginaw Center where 193 girls have registered to attend. Cosponsored event by the Midland Section ACS and Women Chemists Committee. For more information, please contact Ashlin Sathyan at ashlin.sathyan@dupont.com.
- March 23 – **Deadline for Midland Section ACS Spring Awards nominations** to honor outstanding educators, volunteers, and colleagues. For more information or any questions, please contact Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs Wendy Flory (wcflory@dow.com) or Tami Sivy (tsivy@svsu.edu).
- March 23-27, 2025 (Save the Date) – ACS Spring 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, San Diego, CA, hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual). For more information and to register, go to ACS Spring - American Chemical Society.
- March 31 – **Abstract submission deadline for ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition**, Washington, DC, August 17-21, 2025, hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual). For more information, please see https://www.acs.org/events/fall.html.

- April 7 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at April 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- April 30 (5:30 – 8:30 PM, tentative) – Midland Section ACS Spring Awards Recognition Banquet, Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road, Midland. Cost: TBD. For more information or any questions, please contact Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs Wendy Flory (wcflory@dow.com) or Tami Sivy (tsivy@svsu.edu).

- May 5 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at May 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.

- May 6 (8:30 AM – 5:00 PM) – 21st Annual MSU ChEMS Department Research Forum, Michigan State University, MSU Union, 49 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI. Please note that this year's ChEMS Research Forum is being held much earlier in the year (May instead of August) than that of the past several Research Forum programs. Please also note that this year's ChEMS Research Forum is being held at a different location than that of the past several Research Forum programs. Pre-registration for the forum is requested. Please register for the event at 2025 ChEMS Research Forum. For more information, call the MSU ChEMS Department at 517-355-5135, or send an inquiry by email to chems@egr.msu.edu.

- June 2 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at June 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- June 3 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, tentative) – 2025 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series program, featuring Prof. Karen I. Winey, from the University of Pennsylvania. More details to follow regarding the lecture content and registration process. For more information or any questions, please contact Karol Miller at mill2785@msu.edu.
- June 4-6 (Save the Date) – 2025 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM), Appleton, WI, hosted by the Central Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Local Sections. Meeting theme: *Chemistry for a Better Planet*. **The abstract submission deadline is March 3, 2025.** For more information, please visit **GLRM 2025 website**.

- August 4 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at August 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- August 17-21, 2025 – ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, Washington, DC. This meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. **The abstract submission deadline is March 31, 2025.** For more information, please see https://www.acs.org/events/fall.html.

- September 8 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at September 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7. **Please note: This Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.**

- October 6 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at October 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.

- November 3 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at November 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.

- December 1 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at December 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.

The Midland Chemist is published twelve times a year by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, P.O. Box 2695, Midland, MI 48641-2695, http://www.midlandacs.org. Current and past issues are available at midlandchemist.org.

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