

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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Chair Column

Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

Dear Reader,

As the crisp air of fall settles in and we begin to wrap up 2025, it's a perfect time to reflect on our journey and look ahead to what's next. Our Midland Section has accomplished so much this year, and I'm incredibly proud of the energy, creativity, and commitment our members continue to bring.



Over the past few years, we've seen exciting momentum across several initiatives. Notably:

- The **long-established Outreach Committee and Project SEED** programs continue to thrive, with their **scope expanding under strong leadership**-bringing science to more students and communities across the region.

- Our **robust Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) committee and programs** have helped create a more welcoming and representative environment for all members.
- The **reinitiation of the Women Chemists Committee (WCC)** and **Younger Chemists Committee (YCC)** has brought fresh energy and engagement to our Section.
- We've built **stronger partnerships with local organizations** including **NOBCChE, SWE, MMAICChE**, and others—fostering collaboration and expanding our community impact.

These successes are a testament to what we can achieve together. Now, as we begin planning for 2026 and beyond, I'd like to hear from you.

Your feedback is essential to help us grow stronger and more resilient. Whether you've been actively involved or just starting to engage, your perspective matters. I invite you to take a few minutes to reflect and share your thoughts on the following:

- **What are we doing well?**
What practices or programs make you proud to be part of the Midland Section? What strengths should we continue to build on?
- **Where can we improve?**
Are there things we could do differently or better? Are there ideas from other organizations or teams that you think we should try?
- **What concerns do you have for the next 5 years?**
As we plan for the long term, what challenges or opportunities should we be thinking about?
What steps can we take now to ensure our Section thrives in the future?

There are no definitive answers, just your thoughtful reflections. Your input will help guide our planning and ensure that our Section continues to serve its members and our broader community in meaningful ways. Please send your feedback by **October 20th** to: chair@midlandacs.org

Thank you for being part of this journey. I look forward to hearing your ideas and working together to shape a vibrant future for our Section.

Warm regards,
Krishnaja Duvvuri
Chair, Midland Section ACS

Midland Section ACS Board of Directors 2026 Election

Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

The annual election for the Midland Section ACS Board of Directors will be open starting **October 20, 2025, and will close on November 10, 2025.**

The positions that are open for election are:

- Chair-elect¹ (1-year term)
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Chair, Nominations and Elections (1-year term)
- Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

¹The Chair-elect position is an overall three-year leadership commitment. The candidate elected to the Chair-elect position will serve the first year as Chair-elect, the second year as Chair, and the third year as Past-Chair.

The candidates for open Board positions are as follows:

Position (# of vacancies)	Candidates	
Chair-elect (1)	Alyssa Fielitz	Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan
Secretary (1)	Ozge Kaynan Akcal	Clare Leahy
Treasurer (1)	David Potts	
Chair, N&E Committee (1)	Ericka Bruske	
Directors (3)	Michelle Cummings	Dan Dermody
	Steve Keinath	Pinak Mohapatra
	Victor Sussman	Joey Zhou

Below is a summary of the nominees and descriptions for each of the open positions.

Chair-elect: The chair-elect shall serve as Acting Chair of the Section in the absence of the Chair. Additionally, the chair-elect will succeed to the chairmanship of the Section in the following January (2026). They serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Candidates for Chair-Elect:

Alyssa Fielitz, Ph.D.



Alyssa Fielitz is an Associate Research Scientist in Analytical Science (AS) in Core R&D division at Dow. She elucidates structure-property relationships of (typically) soft materials from a variety of businesses using electron microscopy and scattering techniques. Prior to joining Dow, Alyssa received her B.A. in Physics from Mount Holyoke College and her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Minnesota. She joined Dow in 2017 on a two-year rotational program. After a year imaging polymer morphology and catalyst structure with transmission electron microscopy in the Midland, she worked on reformulation of packaging and asphalt modifiers in the High-Pressure Copolymers group in Packaging, Specialty Products, & Hydrocarbons in Lake Jackson, TX, and then on shampoo and conditioner in the

Personal Care R&D Group in Consumer Solutions in Midland. She ultimately returned to the Analytical Science division in Dow and correlated structure-property relationships in soft materials, eventually being promoted to Associate Research Scientist.

In 2021-2024, Alyssa co-led the Core R&D Inclusion Team, where she was the driving force in cultural and procedural changes to make Core R&D division at Dow a more inclusive place. For instance, she expanded the Core R&D Inclusion Team to have subteams in Europe, Middle East, Africa, and India (EMEA) and in Asia Pacific (APAC) regions, who focused on geographically specific culture and challenges. She developed and championed the Gig Marketplace in North America and APAC, in which growth opportunities are visible to all of the organization and everyone can now apply for those opportunities, with particular impact on those from smaller sites or with smaller networks. She drove the change to guidance for hiring managers across all of Dow to avoid gendered language in job postings. She established or drove three different ally education programs that impacted >300 employees and have since been leveraged to other functions and geographies. Her work in the inclusion space was honored with the Midland ACS Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering in 2022, and she was one of three inaugural winners of the Inspiring Women in R&D Award from a regional chapter of the Dow ERG Women's Innovation Network in 2024. In 2024-2025, Alyssa took on a player-coach role, leading 3 individual contributors for about 10 months in Analytical Science. Ultimately, she decided people leadership was not the right career path at this time and transitioned back to technical work full time in 2025. She is currently learning and loving adding atomic force microscopy to her toolbox of skills.

In addition to her technical work, Alyssa is a member of the Midland American Chemical Society (ACS) D&I Committee, where she has edited spotlights of local female STEM professionals for Midland ACS D&I Committee social media pages, writes and emcees trivia at the annual summer picnic, and has helped organize and orchestrate the annual Day in the Life outreach event for local college students. She is running for chair-elect because she aims, first, to continue and enhance the fabulous local programming from outreach events to technical seminars and, second, to tackle challenges to the community and STEM in general in addition to social justice, such as advocating for reproducible, robust science, especially in the community.

Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan, Ph.D.



Associate Research Scientist Dow Performance Silicones – Product Development

Leadership roles:

- Chair of Nominations & Elections Committee, Midland ACS, 2024 – present
- Event Coordinator, Si-Academy at Dow, 2021 – 2024
- Co-chair Young Researchers Community (YRC) at Dow, 2023 – 2024
- Finance officer of the YRC at Dow, 2024

Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan is an Associate Research Scientist in Dow Performance Silicones – Emulsions, Blends, Powders – Product Development group. In this role, Reggie is working on addressing the market needs for sprayable, water-based coatings for high-temperature insulation and condensation service to improve energy efficiency and substrate protection. Reggie also supports commercialization of an eco-friendly slip additive for leather coatings.

Before joining Dow in 2019, Reggie was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara, collaborating with industry partners on polymeric additives for applications such as multifunctional engine lubricants, dispersants, and antiscalants. Reggie earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Florida, specializing in “smart” π -conjugated oligomers for tuning optoelectronic properties in functional organic semiconductors.

Reggie has been an active member of the Midland ACS since 2023 and actively contributes to a variety of outreach initiatives within the community.

Secretary: The Secretary records the proceedings of the Section and its Executive Committee, maintains a list of members and associates, sends to members and associates such notices as the business of the Section may require, and carries out all other duties outlined in the SOCIETY and Section bylaws.

Candidates for Secretary:

Ozge Kaynan Akcal, Ph.D.



Ozge Kaynan Akcal is a Senior Research Specialist in the Materials Discovery and Development organization within Core R&D at Dow. Her work focuses on formulations, product development, and exploring structure–property–process relationships across diverse materials, including silicones, polyurethanes, and cement mixtures.

Prior to joining Dow in 2023, Ozge earned her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Texas A&M University, specializing in polymer composites. During her graduate studies, she held leadership roles in several organizations, including serving as Chief Student Leader for the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE) Texas A&M Chapter, where she facilitated connections between students and industry professionals through various events. She also served as Treasurer for Women in Materials Science at Texas A&M.

Clare A. Leahy, Ph.D.



Clare A. Leahy is a Senior Research Specialist with Dow Industrial Solutions (DIS) on the Product & Application R&D team. She leverages her skillset in synthesis and analysis broadly across the DIS product portfolio, with an emphasis on surfactants and additives. She has contributed to several areas such as coatings, lubricants, and aircraft de-icing/anti-icing fluids. Outside of technical work, Clare currently co-leads the Idea Creation Forum (ICF) within Dow and volunteers through internal and external initiatives & organizations, including internal employee resource groups and ACS. She is excited to continue growing her engagement with the broader chemistry community here with the ACS Midland Section.

A life-long Midwesterner, Clare grew up in central Illinois before heading off to earn her B.A. in Chemistry from Carleton College (Northfield, MN) and a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC; Urbana, IL). Her doctoral research focused on bio-inspired first row transition metal systems and static/dynamic spectroscopy of first and third row transition metal catalysts, jointly advised by Prof. Alison

Fout and Prof. Josh Vura-Weis. While in graduate school, Clare served as an active volunteer and board member on several committees. Some highlights include serving as a board member on the Women Chemists Committee, where she co-organized the annual Bonding with Chemistry day camp; co-chairing the Women in chemistry Retreat Committee; and serving as communications & initiatives coordinator on the department's Joint Safety Team.

Clare lives in Midland with her partner Matt and their two cats. When not in the lab or spending time with her family and friends, Clare enjoys reading, baking, and going on outdoor adventures.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget in cooperation with the Chair and Finance Committee. They shall also pay the bills, handle receipts, keep financial records and report to the Board of Directors. Lastly, the treasurer will make out an annual report with the content and format required by National and file the IRS returns.

Candidates for Treasurer:

David Potts, Ph.D.



David Potts joined Dow as a Senior Research Specialist in August 2024, and is currently a member of the Materials Discovery & Development group within Core R&D. In his role, he focuses on development and reactor testing of novel heterogeneous catalysts for Dow technologies. He is originally from Tulsa, OK, and received his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 2018. He moved on to pursue his PhD at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) under the supervision of Prof. David Flaherty, where his research focused on the design of zeolite catalysts for liquid-phase catalysis. He completed his PhD in May of 2024.

In his first year in Midland, David participated in many events sponsored by YRC at Dow, Midland ACS, and Mid-Michigan AIChE. At UIUC, he served as internal vice president of the chemical engineering department's Graduate Student Advisory Council from 2020-2021, coordinating both welcome and recruiting events for the department. Beyond these activities, David is proudly a person who stutters (PWS) and has participated in career and mentorship panels for PWS sponsored by UIUC, Michigan State, and the National Stuttering Association (NSA). He also serves on the We Stutter @ Work committee of the NSA, working to empower individuals who stutter to achieve their career ambitions. David strives to help make STEM a more welcoming and accessible place for all during his career!

In his spare time, David enjoys playing sports, piano, video games, reading books, and cooking.

Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee: The Nominations and Elections Committee is charged with identifying qualified candidates for leadership positions in the Section, setting up and certifying the elections.

Candidates for N&E Chair:

Ericka Bruske, Ph.D.



Ericka Bruske joined Dow Performance Silicones Product Development as a Senior Research Specialist in August 2023. In this role, she focuses on the development of new catalysts and textile coatings. Soon after coming to Midland, she joined the planning committee for the Dow Consumer Solutions 2024 Innovation Conference as part of the registration subcommittee. Since working at Dow, she has joined the board of the local ACS Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) chapter as the webmaster, starting to foster the social media presence and assisting with networking events.

Ericka is originally from Saginaw, MI, but grew up in Chesapeake, VA and earned her B.S. Chemistry degree from Virginia Tech. She is a chemistry PhD graduate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where her advisor was Alison Fout. At UIUC, Ericka worked as part of a University Partnership Initiative (UPI) with Dow centered around new platinum hydrosilylation catalysts.

At UIUC, Ericka enjoyed being involved in student groups including being the chair of the chemistry department student leadership council in 2022. In this role she actively promoted networking and team-building opportunities by reintroducing events continued today like the annual summer volleyball league and the Fall/Spring cookouts.

At Virginia Tech, Ericka was the Treasurer for the Gamma Iota chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, the chemistry fraternity, which held over 250 active members at the time. This role encompassed maintaining budgeting for events, collecting all dues, and maintaining fundraising efforts.

Outside of work, she enjoys reading, cooking, and time outdoors with her husband Tyler and their dog Sadie.

Director: Directors are expected to attend Board meetings and to participate in the Board's deliberations. Directors should maintain an interest in local and national ACS affairs so that they can give informed consideration to the Section's issues. They should be alert to the needs and opinions of the Section membership. Three Directors must be elected to the Executive Committee, which may require attendance at additional meetings.

Candidates for Director:

Michelle Cummings



Senior R&D Leader
Specialty Products and Intermediates
Performance Silicones
Dow Consumer Solutions – Product Development

Michelle is a Senior R&D Leader within the Specialty Products and Intermediates Group within Dow Performance Silicones. In this role Michelle is responsible for leading a product development group to deliver new innovative organic, silicone, and hybrid products for differentiated advanced performance. She is recognized as a strong leader and known for setting strategies and executing tasks to drive toward successful implementation of innovation. She has experience as a technical leader in silicone elastomers and has developed several commercialized elastomers and adhesive products for use in the electronics and automotive industry.

She is leading the Dow National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology recruiting team after hosting an intern in her R&D lab in 2017 and recruiting many additional interns since. She is an active member of the Disabilities Employee Network (DEN) and is leading the People with Disabilities Hiring Task Force, driving one of the key global initiatives: Attract, develop, and retain people with disabilities. Michelle is the past chair of the American Chemical Society Committee on Chemists with Disabilities with the vision to Make Chemistry Accessible to All. Michelle has worked on projects to mainstream accessible resources across ACS. She is currently the chair-elect of the Division on Professional Relations. Michelle has held multiple positions on the Midland Section board in the past and is excited about helping the local section increase connections with other local sections. She also sees an opportunity to bring the most relevant information from the national level back to Midland.

Dan Dermody, Ph.D.



R&D Fellow, Dow Core R&D
Dow Chemical

Dan Dermody is a Fellow in the Materials Discovery and Development (MDD) group within Core R&D. Dan graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Weber State University in 1992, received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1998 and acted as a post-doc at Pennsylvania State University until 2000 when he joined Dow.

He has been fortunate to work in various project and application areas across Dow including high throughput research/workflow development and developing novel colloid and interfacial chemistries for consumer and industrial solutions, coatings, and adhesives. In addition, Dan has led Dow efforts in formulation development for 3d printing, and various electronic material applications. Dan's efforts are currently focused on hybrid modeling development to enhance the effectiveness of high throughput workflows, and post-consumer recycle cleaning/sustainable chemistry development. Dan has co-authored 20 patents, 18 patent applications, and 17 journal articles, including a book chapter on high temperature dispersions. Dan regularly mentors younger researchers across Dow as well as assists in mentoring and community outreach activities through Dow and ACS.

Steven E. Keinath



Professional and Volunteer Experience:

37 years of career experience, all with the Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI), Midland, MI. Retired in 2015 from the position, Senior Research Scientist and Program Manager. Currently active in non-profit organization leadership, technical editing, and community service volunteer roles, among them, aside from the Midland Section ACS, St. John's Lutheran Church, Gideons International, and the Legacy Center for Community Success.

Education:

B.S., Chemistry and Physics, Saginaw Valley State College, 1976; M.S., Polymer Science and Engineering, University of Massachusetts, 1978; M.B.A., General Business, Saginaw Valley State College, 1981; M.A., Education, Central Michigan University, 1985; Ph.D., Chemistry, Michigan Technological University, 1992.

ACS Activities:

Joined 1977; Co-editor, Midland Chemist, 1984-85, 2010-25; Editor, Midland Chemist, 1986-87; Printing Chairman, 22nd ACS Central Regional Meeting, 1987-90; Co-chairman, Awards Committee, 1992; Member, Awards Committee, 2003-19; Alternate Councilor, 1993-98, 2002-04, 2017-19; Member, Nominations and Elections Committee, 1994-97; Chairman, Nominations and Elections Committee, 1999-2001; Member, Auditing Committee, 1995, 1998; Director, 2005-25; Member, Executive Committee, 2007, 2010, 2012-15, 2020, 2022-25; Member, Technical Society Interface Committee, 2010-13; Midland Section ACS Webmaster Liaison, 2010-12; Member, Strategic Planning Committee, 2015; Member, Midland Section ACS 100th Anniversary Planning Committee, 2015-19.

Other Information:

Session Moderator/Symposium Chair at Midland Section ACS hosted meetings: Fall Scientific Meetings, 1996-97, 2007-08. Papers/posters presented at Midland Section ACS hosted meetings: Fall Scientific Meetings, 1975, 1984, 1986, 1989-90, 2000, 2003-05, 2007-12, 2014-15; 22nd ACS Central Regional Meeting, 1990; 44th ACS Central Regional Meeting, 2013; Authors'/Awards Night, 1991. MMI Program Coordinator, Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor (TAVP) lecture series, 1999-2014.

Personal Statement:

I'm proud of the activities and achievements of the Midland Section ACS and have been actively engaged in a number of ACS officer and committee roles over many years. My feeling is that I can continue to contribute to the future greater good of the local section and would be pleased to continue to serve if elected.

Pinak Mohapatra, Ph.D.



Pinak joined Dow in 2023 and is currently a Senior Research Specialist in Applied Engineering and Process Technology group within the Core R&D organization. Pinak's work focuses on process development, catalyst lifetime studies and optimization of reaction conditions for production of amines, carboxylic acids, and acrylate monomers, with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency, conversions and selectivity, scalability, and sustainability. At Dow, Pinak has also contributed to diverse technical areas for derisking and scale-up of specialty chemical processes, supporting innovation across multiple product platforms and enabling robust technology transfer from lab to pilot and commercial scale. In addition to technical contributions, Pinak actively engages with the broader scientific and professional community.

Pinak has served as Chair of Reaction Engineering sessions at the AIChE Annual Meetings, facilitating technical presentations and discussions among academic researchers and industry professionals. Pinak also regularly reviews manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals such as ACS Energy & Fuels and others.

Pinak earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India, and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from The Ohio State University, USA. During the Ph.D., Pinak worked on chemical looping processes for natural gas and biomass partial oxidation, NO_x mitigation, and carbon capture. Pinak also spent two years at Stanford University during his Ph.D., where he supported cutting-edge technology development for electrification of chemical reactors aimed at reducing carbon emissions and improving scalability.

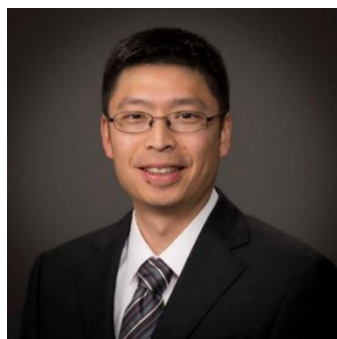
Victor Sussman, Ph.D.



Victor J. Sussman is a Senior Research Scientist in the Materials Discovery & Development Group in Core R&D at The Dow Chemical Company. Prior to joining Dow in 2007, he received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Minnesota where he was an NSF Graduate Research Fellow. An organometallic chemist by training, Victor's current research interests center on heterogeneous catalysis and process development. He is an inventor on 17 granted patents and an author or co-author of nearly 30 external publications and presentations and over 100 internal reports.

Victor has been an ACS member since 1998 and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers since 2008. He currently serves as a director of the Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE (MMAIChE) having previously served as chair where he worked to strengthen ties between MMAIChE and Midland ACS. He also currently serves as the president of the Michigan Chapter of the North American Catalysis Society. He is a strong believer in the value of professional societies to cultivate belonging and professional identity and local sections especially as outlets for regular external engagement with scientists and engineers at all stages of their careers. As director, he is eager to continue to foster a culture of collaboration and inclusion between the local sections of both AIChE and ACS consistent with the cross-disciplinary nature of industrial research and development. When he is not at work, he can be found refereeing recreational ice hockey and writing for the United States Naval Institute.

Xiaoyuan "Joey" Zhou, Ph.D.



Research Scientist
Specialty Products and Intermediates
Dow Performance Silicones – Product Development

Xiaoyuan (Joey) Zhou is a Research Scientist within Dow Performance Silicones – Product Development. Since joining Dow in 2016, Joey has focused on functional organosilanes, reactive siloxane polymers, and catalysis. He currently leads the Specialty Intermediates Technology platform, where he has driven the development and commercialization of a suite of new proprietary intermediates utilized in high green strength RTV sealants, hybrid sealants, adhesives, coatings, and composite material applications. Joey possesses expertise in silicone chemistry with a specialization in organosilane and siloxane synthesis, as well as demonstrated experience in bringing laboratory innovations into production.

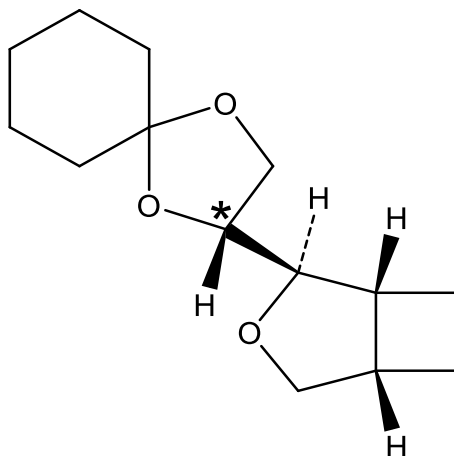
Joey has served as the Chair of the DCS Si-Academy committee, fostering technical exchange and enhancing the learning environment within the DCS R&D community. He has also held the role of Intellectual Property Manager for Dow's Organosilanes technology, guiding IP strategy development and implementation to align with business and R&D objectives.

Joey received his B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Science and Technology of China and his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Chicago. He completed postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling and exploring new cuisines with his family, playing poker with friends, and engaging in outdoor activities.

Answer for the Third R,S-Puzzle

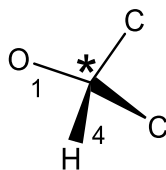
Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

Andrew Chubb from SVSU provided the correct answer, **R**, for the third **R,S**-Puzzle which was to give the correct designation, **R** or **S**, for the starred carbon atom [*The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, 62, No. 9 (Sept), p 12]:

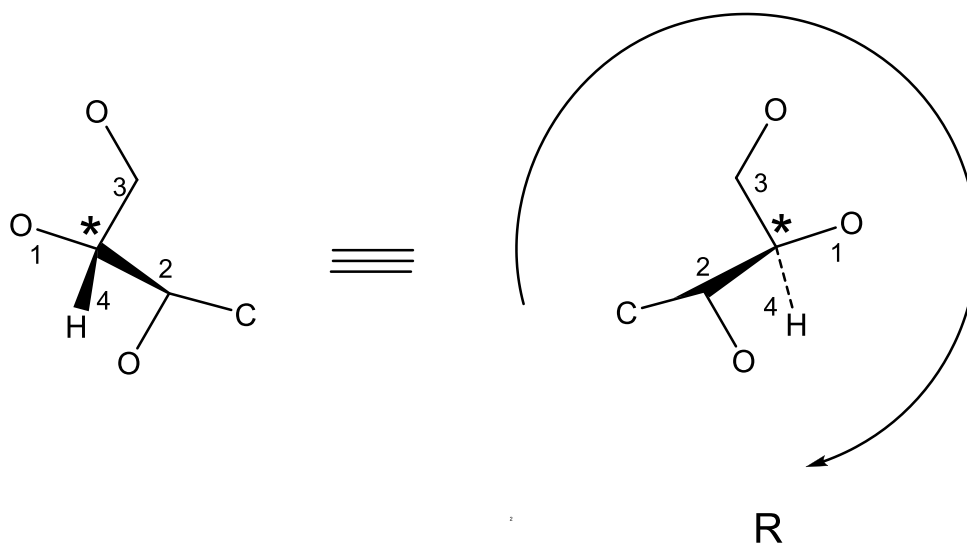


Congratulations Andrew.

The starred carbon is bonded to one hydrogen atom, two carbon atoms, and one oxygen atom.



The oxygen branch is automatically priority one and the hydrogen is automatically priority four.



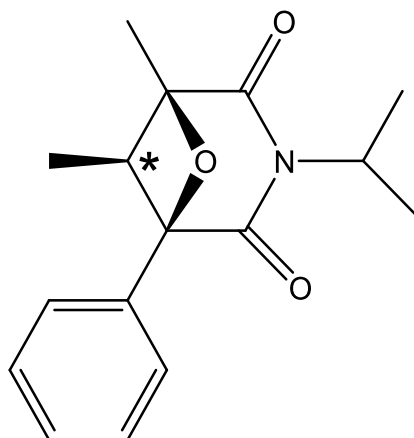
Branch 2 has an oxygen and a carbon on an alpha carbon and branch 3 has one oxygen on an alpha carbon.

In order to have the hydrogen project behind the plane of the page we must look at the mirror image of the last figure on the right of the last figure. The order of the first three branches is clockwise or the **R** configuration.

Fourth R,S-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

Here's the fourth R,S-Puzzle. What is the correct designation, **R** or **S**, for the starred carbon in the following compound? Again, the authors who reported this compound have given the incorrect designation for this atom.



Send your answer to me at w.dilling@att.net. The correct answer and first person with the correct answer will be reported in an upcoming issue of *The Midland Chemist*. Only one answer per person. Good luck.

SVSU Dow Visiting Scholar Seminar, October 8

Stephanie Brouet, Department of Chemistry, Saginaw Valley State University

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, there will be a Dow Visiting Scholar event at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) featuring Dr. Erich Uffelman as the seminar speaker. He is an inorganic chemist who specializes in using advanced spectroscopic techniques to uncover images beneath famous artworks and explore other chemical processes related to art.

Dr. Uffelman's seminar, titled *Scientific Adventures with Art History and Cultural Heritage*, will be presented in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall on the campus of SVSU, on October 8, at 6:30 PM. An expanded, detailed biography of Dr. Uffelman is provided on page 14 of the September 2025 issue of *The Midland Chemist*, available at [The Midland Chemist newsletter](#). For more information or any questions, please reach out to Stephanie Brouet at sbrouet@svsu.edu.

DOW VISITING SCHOLAR

Scientific Adventures with Art History and Cultural Heritage

Erich Uffelman, Ph.D.

The past 20 years have seen a revolution in non-invasive methods for examining cultural heritage, transforming art history and art conservation. This talk will provide many examples of how we can understand artists' intent, artists' techniques and issues of attribution using various scientific techniques.

Dr. Erich Uffelman is internationally recognized for his work in cultural heritage science by applying advanced scientific techniques to the study of paintings, prints and historical objects. His research on Dutch masterpieces and pigment analysis has made him a leading voice in the field. Uffelman obtained a Bachelor of Science from Bucknell University. He obtained an NSF Fellowship to attend the California Institute of Technology, receiving his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Caltech. Uffelman joined the chemistry faculty at Washington and Lee University in 1993, and in 2014 he was named the University's Bentley Professor of Chemistry.



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Rhea Miller Recital Hall



SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services. SVSU will provide reasonable accommodation for those persons with disabilities. Individuals who wish accommodation should contact The Conference Center at SVSU at 989.964.4348 at least three days prior to the need.

Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), October 12-14

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a pair of National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated July 3, 2025, and updated September 11, 2025.



Midwest Regional Meeting October 12 - 14, 2025 | Columbia, Missouri

The University of Missouri Local Section will host [MWRM 2025](#) from Sunday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 14. Don't miss this opportunity to present your research, connect with leading minds, and contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas that defines MWRM. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

The city of Columbia is akin to a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz, and an engaged community. We are a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities. Columbia offers picturesque parks, clever cuisine, amazing art, and superb shopping, in addition to several local coffee roasters and breweries. Several popular neighborhoods are adjacent to campus, including The District, The North Village Arts District, and The Arcade District.

ACS Dinner Presentation Featuring Dr. Sam Gregson, October 16
Isabel Meza, WCC, Midland Section ACS



Dinner Presentation Featuring Dr. Sam Gregson

Particle Physicist at University of Cambridge & CERN • Award-Winning Science
Educator and Entertainer

Location:

Holiday Inn & Suites Mount Pleasant
5278 E. Pickard Street, Mount Pleasant, MI
THURSDAY, October 16th from 6 to 9 P.M.

Buffet Dinner:

- Buffet dinner featuring London broil with mashed potatoes and gravy, grilled salmon with rice pilaf, fresh garden greens with vine ripened tomatoes, cucumbers and vinaigrettes, vegetable medley, assorted rolls with Butter, and Assorted Cookies
- Cash bar available*

Cost:

\$40 for Regular ACS Members
\$25 for ACS Student Members (valid student ID required)

Part of:

2025 ACS Central Regional Meeting &
Midland Local Section Fall Scientific Meeting

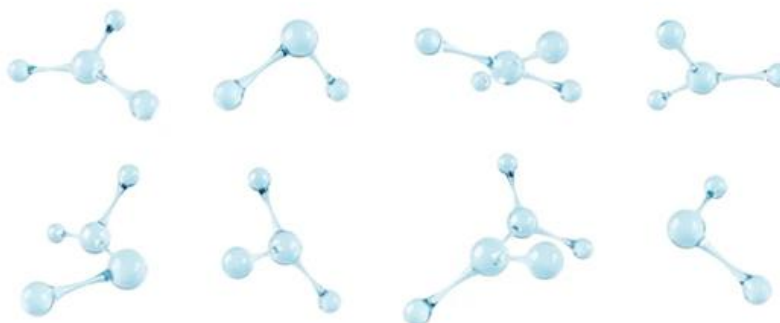
<https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/>



Register here →



Chemistry
Reconnected
Empowering Scientists | Rebuilding
Trust | Inspiring Change



Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 16-17
Dale LeCaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS, and General Meeting Chair, CERM 2025

Meeting Theme – Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World

Location – Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

Date and Time – Thursday, October 16, 1:00 PM to ?? through Friday, October 17, morning, afternoon, and evening (tentative)

For More Information – Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, Central Michigan University, lecap1dj@cmich.edu. See also <https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/>.

The 2025 Central Regional Meeting (CERM) of the American Chemical Society will be held in Mount Pleasant, MI, on the campus of Central Michigan University on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17. This year's meeting theme, **Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World**, highlights the power of collaboration, innovation, and community in the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.

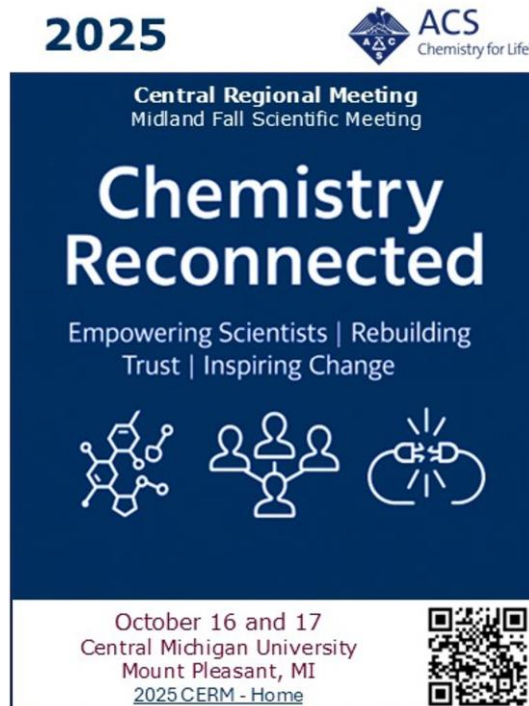
In a time marked by social fragmentation, misinformation, and growing challenges to scientific integrity, **Chemistry Reconnected** serves as both a call to action and a source of empowerment. This year's joint Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025) and the Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM) invites scientists across disciplines – chemists, engineers, educators, and students – to come together in restoring trust, strengthening community, and championing the role of science in society.

Chemistry is more than molecules – it's a force for connection, truth, and change. Let's reconnect science with society – and empower scientists to lead that transformation.

Possible program topics – Artificial Intelligence and Chemistry, Member Education, and Chemistry Reconnected: A Call to Action. Poster sessions will also be part of the joint meeting's programming.

Abstracts for posters are currently being accepted through the American Chemical Society portal. Accepted papers will be abstracted and published by the ACS.

Volunteer Session Leaders are needed. Please contact Dale LeCaptain at lecap1dj@cmich.edu. Thank you.



Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025), October 16-17

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 September 11, 2025.

CERM - 2025 Chemistry Reconnected Empowering Scientists Rebuilding Trust Inspiring Change  Joint meeting of the ACS Central Region & Midland Local Section	October 16 - 17 Central Michigan University Mount Pleasant, MI ☐ Author-Submitted Posters ☐ Expositions ☐ Invited Technical Sessions ☐ Interactive Networking
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Central Regional Meeting

October 16 - 17, 2025 | Mount Pleasant, MI

The **Central Regional Meeting 2025 (CERM 2025)** of the American Chemical Society is proudly being hosted by the Midland Local Section at Central Michigan University. This year's theme, "**Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists | Rebuilding Trust | Inspiring Change**," emphasizes the vital role of collaboration, innovation, and community in advancing the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and meaningful opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.

CERM 2025 welcomes **poster presentations only** across all areas of chemistry, which will be organized into thematic categories based on submitted topics. Poster sessions will be held during the late afternoon on both Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17, providing excellent opportunities for networking and scientific exchange.

Note: the deadline to submit an abstract was Monday, September 15.

Registration Is Open

CERM 2025 is free to attend, but registration is required for all participants.

Friday, October 17, Highlights at CERM 2025:

Join us from 12:30 to 1:30 PM for the **ACS Governance Reception**, featuring **Dr. Caroline Ribes** from the ACS Board of Directors. Later in the evening, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM, don't miss the **Project SEED Fundraiser**, which will include a lively bourbon raffle to support future chemists. It's a great chance to connect, contribute, and celebrate the spirit of chemistry!

Special Ticketed Events:

- **Thursday Evening, October 16:** Dinner presentation featuring **Dr. Sam Gregson**, particle physicist at the University of Cambridge and CERN, and award-winning science educator and entertainer – \$40; \$25 for students with a valid ID.
- **Friday Evening, October 17:** Brewery gathering with pizza and live music by Socially Distant, performing rock and blues from Alanis to Zeppelin, scientists by day, musicians by night – \$12.

[Learn More and Register](#)



2025 National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest – The Hidden Life of Spices

Hannah Bailey, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an Illustrated Poem Contest for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Write and illustrate a poem using the National Chemistry Week (NCW) theme – The Hidden Life of Spices.

Contest Deadline: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Gift Card and prizes for all 1st and 2nd place winners in each grade category!

For more information or questions, contact: HannahBailey@dow.com

This contest is open to anyone in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Winners of the Midland Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the National ACS website and to win additional prizes!



Visit [Illustrated Poem Contest – National Chemistry Week – American Chemical Society](#) for complete information and submission rules.

Send your poems and submission forms to Hannah Bailey at HannahBailey@dow.com no later than Sunday, October 26, 2025. Thank you.

Joint Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025), October 26-29
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a pair of National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated July 1, 2025, and updated September 11, 2025.



Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting
October 26–29, 2025 | Orlando, FL

The Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting 2025 ([SERMACS/SWRM 2025](#)) will be held from Sunday to Wednesday, October 26-29, 2025, and will be hosted by the American Chemical Society Orlando Local Section.

SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be the first time the conference has returned to Florida in nearly 30 years. The Orlando Local Section of ACS is organizing this meeting and is excited to showcase the robust and exciting southeastern scientific community and the unique contributions Florida makes to the chemical enterprise!

Additionally, SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be a joint meeting, held concurrently with the Southwest Regional Meeting of the ACS. This meeting will feature scientists from across the southern United States, from California to Florida! SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be larger than the average regional meeting as a result, providing even more opportunity for valuable engagement between sponsors and attendees. The 76th Southeastern and 81st Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

[Visit the website](#) to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

Keynote Speakers

Plenary Lecture

Chemists at NASA: from Environmental Studies and Instrumentation Development to the Chief Technologist

Sunday, October 26, 5:15 PM



Kathleen Loftin, PhD
Academic Research Program Manager
NASA

Heritage Lecture

Reflections on an Analytical Chemistry Career (mostly) in the U.S. DOE National Labs

Tuesday, October 28, 5:15 PM



Gregory Eiden, PhD
Laboratory Fellow
Idaho National Laboratory

Workshops

Sunday, October 26

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM -- *ACS Career Pathways: Working for Yourself: Your Idea, Your Business, and Your Marketing Strategy*
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM -- *NMR – Live Demo, Data Collection, and Problem Solving* (Organized by Magritek Inc.)
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM -- *Chemical Patents Workshop: Intellectual Properties for Chemists* (Organized by Ram Sabnis)

Monday, October 27

- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM -- *ACS Summit: Industry-Academia Summit on Preparing Chemists for the Private Sector* (Organized by Michelle Brooks)

Tuesday, October 28

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM -- *Career Pathways in Pharmacy* (Organized by Vicki Mody & Yujin Kim)
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM -- *Probabilistic Environmental Risk Assessment of Emerging Contaminants*
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM -- *Analytical Frontiers in Microplastics Monitoring* (Sponsored by Shimadzu)

Pizza and Pumpkins Outreach Event, October 28
Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS



PIZZA...AND PUMPKINS!

Tues, Oct 28, 2025 6-7:30 pm
Griswold Center at St. John's Episcopal Church
405 N. Saginaw Rd, Midland [corner at St. Andrews]

- **FREE** attendance, **FREE PUMPKINS**
- Decorating time, **FREE** supplies (no carving)
- Build your own **FREE CHEESE PIZZA** with our garden-fresh tomatoes and herbs; cooked on site. Drinks and goodies.
- **STEM** activities and **PRIZES** with pumpkins and spices!

Limited to 50 guests;
Recommended for ages 4 and up.
PLEASE SIGN UP AT:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054BADAA2EA20-58428481-2025>

Sponsored by the
Midland Section of the American Chemical Society



[Pizza and Pumpkins Signup Link](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054BADAA2EA20-58428481-2025)



October ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn, October 29

Judith Espinoza Perez, Chair Elect and Programming Committee, Midland Section ACS

Please join us for the October ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn which will take place on:

Wednesday October 29th

MSU St. Andrews (1910 West St Andrews Rd, Midland MI)

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Lunch & Networking

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Seminar

ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn

Quantum Computing: Prospects for Chemistry and Automated Synthesis



Abstract: Quantum computing, in contrast to classical computing, harnesses the unusual properties of quantum mechanics to provide a framework capable of solving certain classes of currently intractable problems compared to existing methods. From the theoretical formulation of Feynman to today's use cases in various science and engineering domains, quantum computing has demonstrated increased promise with a global market above \$1.6B by the end of this year. In this talk, we will summarize the foundations of quantum computing and review the state of the art and its increasing

viability for chemistry and automated synthesis, two paradigmatic examples whose algorithms scale poorly with more complex molecules and protocols. We will finally discuss existing limitations of quantum processing units (QPUs) and their current trajectory from Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum devices (NISQ) to utility-scale, fault-tolerant quantum computers (FTQC) expected within this decade.



Santiago Núñez-Corrales
Quantum Lead Research Scientist



Speaker Biography

Santiago Núñez-Corrales, Ph.D. serves as Quantum Lead Research Scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He also serves as faculty affiliate at the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center (IQUIST), the Center for Global Studies (CGS), the Arms Control & Domestic and International Security (ACDIS), and Illinois Informatics at the same institution. His expertise includes quantum programming language design, digital twins for quantum computing, devising distributed quantum computation protocols, quantum applications in science and engineering, HPC-QPU integration, and dependable classical-quantum computer systems engineering. Dr. Núñez-Corrales obtained his doctoral degree in Informatics from UIUC, and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from the Costa Rica Institute of Technology.

Lunch RSVP



[Midland ACS Lunch and Learn](#)

Midland Section ACS Volunteer Appreciation Event, November 3

Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

On behalf of the Midland Section ACS Board, it is our pleasure to invite you to the **2025 ACS Volunteer Appreciation Event**, an evening dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of our volunteers.

Date: Monday, November 3rd

Time:

- 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM: November Board Meeting (in-person with virtual option available)
- 7:15 PM onwards: Volunteer Appreciation Celebration (in-person only)

Location: St. Johns Episcopal Church (405 N Saginaw Rd, Midland)

The evening will feature a warm and festive atmosphere, including:

- A catered dinner and refreshments
- Interactive games
- Recognition of your service and dedication

Your commitment and generosity have made a lasting impact, and we look forward to celebrating you in the company of the Board and fellow volunteers.

Please RSVP here by October 20th - [Sign up for 2025 ACS Midland Volunteer Appreciation Event](#)

2025 ACS Volunteer Appreciation Event- November 3rd



ACS Volunteer Appreciation Event

HONORING VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR INVALUABLE TIME & CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEN: NOVEMBER 3RD, MONDAY

6:30 PM-7:15 PM- BOARD MEETING

7:15 PM ONWARDS- APPRECIATION EVENT

WHERE: ST. JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Midland Section ACS Centennial Exhibit Update and the National ACS's 150th Year!

Gina Malczewski, Director and Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS



The National American Chemical Society turns 150 in April 2026. Efforts to relocate the Midland Section's Centennial Exhibit are allowing us to celebrate both local and National milestones at the same time!

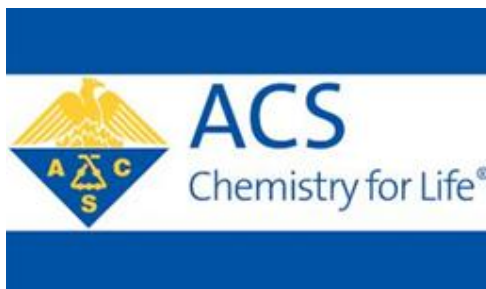
The Midland Section ACS Centennial Exhibit, first displayed at the Herbert Doan History Center in Midland in 2019, and then moved to the Museum of Cultural and Natural History in Rowe Hall at Central Michigan University, was recently relocated to storage in May 2025. We have been investigating options for additional display(s) of the contents of the exhibit, all or in part, with new materials appropriate for future host locations.

The Centennial Exhibit, along with adjunct programming, won six National ACS ChemLuminary awards from 2019 to 2023. Although the exhibit was closed during the COVID pandemic, it was eventually visited by dozens of school groups and seniors from assisted living facilities. Programming (more than 15 events) has ranged from hosting author Sam Kean (in person, his latest book is *Dinner with King Tut*) to Frankenstein Fridays, a hands-on holiday chemistry session, and a fireworks event.

We are currently working with the Bay County Historical Museum (BCHM, in Bay City) and Northwood University locations in Midland to host some of the previous content as well as new information and activities. The exhibits will address topics such as the importance of chemistry, its history, and its impact on the local communities where its teaching and practice have been prominent. We are fortunate to be working again with the exhibit's initial designer, John Metcalf, of the Good Design Group.

Details on programming and upcoming events can be found on the Museum's calendar and social media site (<https://www.bchsmuseum.org/events.html>).

We will be providing updates on this effort and other activities related to the National ACS 150th celebration. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.



ACS Spring 2026, March 22-26

Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*



This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and globally from March 22-26, 2026.

For more information, please click on [ACS Spring 2026](#)

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- October 6 (6:15 – 7:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Meet & Greet event for 2026 election candidates to interact with current officers and board members, ask questions, and gain insight into the governance structure of the Midland Section ACS, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person only).
- 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.
- October 8 (6:30 – 8:30 PM) – SVSU Dow Visiting Scholar seminar event, *Scientific Adventures with Art History and Cultural Heritage*, Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Saginaw Valley State University. Speaker Dr. Erich Uffelman, Bentley Professor at Washington and Lee University. For more information, please see the article on pages 12 and 13. For any questions, please reach out to Stephanie Brouet at sbrouet@svsu.edu.
- October 10 (3:30 – 5:30 PM) – **This event has been cancelled.** *STEM Connect: Meet the Experts* event, a program for high school juniors and seniors and undergraduate students from local colleges to get them introduced to and interested in STEM careers, MSU St. Andrews, Midland.
- October 12-14 (Save the Date) – Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), hosted by the University of Missouri Local Section ACS, Columbia, MO. For more information, please see the article on page 14.
- October 16 (6:00 – 9:00 PM) – ACS Dinner Presentation Featuring Dr. Sam Gregson. Holiday Inn & Suites, Mount Pleasant. For detailed information and to register, please see the flyer on page 15.
- October 16-17 (Save the Date) – Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Meeting theme: *Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World*. See the articles on pages 16-18 for more details. **The deadline to submit**

abstracts was September 15, 2025. For more information or any questions, please contact Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, at lecap1dj@cmich.edu.

- October 20 – November 10 (Please Note) – **Midland Section ACS Board of Directors 2026 Election** period. For more information about the candidates running for various elected positions, please see the article on pages 3-10. For more information or any questions, please contact Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee, at RBouZerdan@dow.com.
- October 24 (4:00 – 7:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS *Frankenstein Friday* outreach program, Rowe Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. For more information or any questions, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- October 26 – **Deadline for 2025 National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest submissions** on the theme, *The Hidden Life of Spices*. For more information or any questions, please see the article and flyer on page 19 and contact Hannah Bailey (HannahBailey@dow.com). Visit [Illustrated Poem Contest – National Chemistry Week – American Chemical Society](#) for complete information and submission rules. When completed, please send your poems and submission forms to Hannah Bailey (HannahBailey@dow.com).
- October 26-29, 2025 (Save the Date) – Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). This meeting is being hosted by the Orlando Local Section of the ACS. The meeting location is DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. For more information, please see the article on pages 20-21 or visit the meeting website at [SERMACS/SWRM 2025](#).
- October 28 (6:00 – 7:30 PM) – Midland Section ACS *Pizza and Pumpkins* outreach program, Griswold Center, St. John’s Episcopal Church, 405 North Saginaw Road, Midland. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Free event but limited to the first 50 guests. To sign up, go to [Pizza and Pumpkins](#). For more information, please see the flyer on page 22 or contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- October 29 (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM) – ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn, Quantum Computing: Prospects for Chemistry and Automated Synthesis, with Santiago Núñez-Corrales. MSU St. Andrews. 1910 West St Andrews Rd, Midland, MI. 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Lunch & Networking, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Seminar. For details and to RSVP for lunch, see the flyer on page 23.
- November 3 (6:30 – 7:15 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. **Please note: The start time for this Board meeting has been advanced 30 minutes from its usual 7:00 PM start time to 6:30 PM to accommodate the follow-up Volunteer Appreciation event the same night.**
- November 3 (7:15 – ??) – Midland Section ACS Volunteer Appreciation event honoring our volunteers for their invaluable contributions. St. John’s Episcopal Church, 405 North Saginaw Road, Midland. Please see the article on page 24 for details and to RSVP. Please **RSVP by October 20**.
- 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.
- March 22-26, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS Spring 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, Atlanta, GA. This meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see the flyer on page 26 or click on [ACS Spring 2026](#). Please note: The deadline for abstract submissions was September 29, 2025.

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