

# THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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## Chair Column

*Judith Espinoza, Chair, Midland Section ACS*



Dear Readers,

April 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the American Chemical Society (ACS), an ideal moment to reflect on how the Society began. On April 6, 1876, thirty-five chemists gathered in New York City with a shared goal: to establish a professional society devoted to chemistry. At the time, chemists worked in isolation, even as the discipline was rapidly expanding across academia, medicine, and industry. Guided by leaders such as Charles F. Chandler, and with John William Draper elected as the first ACS president, the group founded a society dedicated to advancing chemical knowledge, fostering original research, and strengthening

connections among chemists. From that first meeting grew a community committed not only to scientific excellence, but also to sharing the value of chemistry with the broader public. These principles continue to guide ACS today.

After 150 years, ACS continues to inspire new generations to pursue chemistry with passion and purpose. Just last month, the Midland Section ACS committees supported our mission through the following activities:

- The *Diversity and Inclusion Committee* celebrated Women’s History Month by highlighting the inspiring career paths of Jamie Weishuhn and Jordan Reddel, two outstanding community members. Their stories appeared on the [ACS Diversity and Inclusion - Midland Section](#) Facebook page. **Editor’s note:** the summary slides from Facebook are included on page 19 of this newsletter.
- The *Outreach Committee* hosted “Egg-cited about Chemistry” at the Bay County Historical Society, where children and their families explored chemistry through interactive demonstrations. Participants learned why boiled eggs turn green and made artwork with eggshells.
- The *Awards Committee* made strong progress in preparing for the 2026 Spring Awards Recognition Banquet. I encourage you to register for this special event. Additional details can be found in this issue.
- The *Chemistry Olympiad Committee* coordinated the local exam of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad, with 88 students representing several mid-Michigan counties.

This spirit of collaboration is why I invite you to join us. The power of networking is our not-so-secret advantage. You may be surprised by how much you can offer others and how much you can gain in return. Although we come from different places and backgrounds, chemistry is the glue that holds us together.

As part of the ACS 150th anniversary celebration, April’s theme is Sustainability, which aligns with Earth Day. Celebrated every year on April 22 since 1970, Earth Day promotes environmental protection and sustainable practices. ACS invites us to reflect on how chemistry advances sustainability by addressing climate change, reducing waste, and enabling a circular economy. I encourage you to watch this month’s ACS thematic video: [How sustainable chemistry can change the world for good | ACS150](#)

In our community, the Midland Section ACS brings the message of Sustainability to life through hands-on outreach and meaningful partnerships. Since 2021, the Midland Section ACS, led by the Outreach Committee in collaboration with the Dow High School Go Green Club, has organized the Earth Action Expo. This year’s theme, “Into the Woods with Chemistry,” highlights connections among chemistry, nature, and environmental stewardship. The event will take place on April 25, at Dow High School. The Earth Action Expo is the largest earth-friendly event in mid-Michigan. For more information, please visit [EarthActionExpo.org](#).

Sustainability is a global goal, but it starts with each of us. Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Isabel Meza, an environmental scientist, former Women Chemists Committee co-chair, and one of our Local Section’s most dedicated members. I asked her when she first realized this work was her calling. She shared that it began when she was a child and saw pelicans covered in oil on a TV program. She later learned that those images were connected to the 1990 Mega Borg oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. That moment left a lasting impression and ultimately sparked her decision to become part of the solution. It is remarkable how a single moment can shape

a lifetime of purpose. That same spirit brings the Midland Section ACS together each month to serve our community.

Thank you for supporting the Midland Section ACS. Please join one of our upcoming events or consider volunteering on a committee. I look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Letter to the Editor**

***Wendell L. Dilling, ACS Fellow, Midland Section***

In the March issue, page 1, you printed a Chair Column by Judith Espinoza in which she stated that “our diversity and inclusion (D&I) Committee recognized Black History Month by highlighting the journeys of two of our local scientists, Mikiyas Assefa and Dare E. George. Their stories are a powerful reminder of why representation and recognition matter in our scientific community. You can learn more about it at the [ACS Diversity and Inclusion - Midland Section](#) Facebook page.”

*The Midland Chemist* is the official communication for the Midland ACS Section. The recognition of scientists Assefa and George is important ACS news I would appreciate being able to read in *The Midland Chemist*. For those of us who don't use Facebook, please also include important news in *The Midland Chemist* in addition to on Facebook.

Thank you.

Wendell Dilling

***Editor's note:*** Thank you for the feedback. When the newsletter references recognition posts or other news shared on social media, we will also include a brief summary in *The Midland Chemist* so readers who do not use Facebook can access the key information.

### **ACS National Awards for 2026–2027 Nomination**

***Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera, 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 on pages 16 to 17 in the February edition of the newsletter at [The Midland Chemist – February 2026 \(midlandacs.org\)](#).

Now is the time to begin nominations for National ACS awards for 2026-2027 as most annual reviews have a deadline of around November 1, 2026.

Criteria and deadlines for the National ACS awards, and other grants and considerations, can be found at [National Awards - American Chemical Society](#).

The full list of National ACS awards by title can be found at [Awards by Title - American Chemical Society](#).

**2026 ACS Spring Awards Recognition Banquet, RSVP Deadline April 10**  
**Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera, Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Midland Section ACS**

**ACS Recognition Dinner**

Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center at Valley Plaza Resort  
5121 Bay City Road, Midland, Michigan

**Program**

5:30 PM – Register, Cash Bar, and Social Time  
6:00 PM – Dinner  
6:15 PM – Keynote Speaker  
6:45 PM – Awards Presentations

Educators, students, ACS members, industry colleagues, and 50-, 60-, and 70-year ACS members/retirees will be recognized for their outstanding achievements at this 35th annual event. Mark your calendar and join us in support of our award recipients, to connect with colleagues, or just to mingle with a diverse group of people passionate about science!

Our keynote speaker will be Andre Argenton, Dow's chief technology and sustainability officer. He is responsible for leading Dow's global Research & Development organization, Sustainability and Environmental Health and Safety.

Previously, Argenton was the chief sustainability officer (CSO) and vice president of Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S), advancing Dow's sustainability, safety and health priorities. He also accelerated Dow's efforts to create value for customers and global communities through sustainable products and solutions. Prior to that, he was the vice president of Core R&D, overseeing a broad portfolio of research programs and world-leading innovation capabilities enabling technology development across key market segments.



**Andre Argenton**

Argenton joined Dow in 1999 and moved to the U.S. in 2007. Throughout his career, he has driven innovation across varied chemistries and technologies, supporting multiple industries through product development, process research, and application development.

Argenton earned a Ph.D. from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He has served on several academic advisory boards. Currently, his external commitments include the University of Michigan Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Michigan Erb Institute, and the NYSE Sustainability Advisory Council.

The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person and includes dinner, dessert, and a non-alcoholic beverage. A pre-dinner cash bar will be available. Your dinner reservation request must be received by April 10, 2026.

Register to attend at [Midland ACS Awards Committee: 2026 ACS Recognition Banquet \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com) or by scanning the QR code at the right. You may pre-pay using the *Pre-Pay Registration* option or pay at the door (cash only) by signing up using the *Pay at Door Registration* option.



Dress is business casual. This event is sponsored by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society. For more information or any questions, please contact Allison Abdilla or Kajari Bera, Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs, at [awards@midlandacs.org](mailto:awards@midlandacs.org).

## Thriving in New Environments Virtual Panel, April 9 Midland Section ACS

**ACS** **swe** Society of Women Engineers Mid-Michigan

# Thriving in New Environments

Mid-Michigan AIChE®

Scan to submit questions and get the meeting link



**Virtual Panel on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 -1 pm**

This panel highlights the experiences of women in STEM as they navigate significant changes in their professional environments, such as relocating to a new country, state, institution, or workplace. The discussion explores challenges related to adaptation, representation, and professional growth, while emphasizing resilience, opportunity, and the future of women in STEM.

**Panelists:**

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Falon Kalutanirige, Ph.D.</b><br>Sr. Scientist<br>Dupont | <b>Kayla Williams</b><br>Sr. R&D Leader<br>Dow | <b>Ozge Kaynan Akcal, Ph.D.</b><br>Sr. Research Specialist<br>Dow | <b>Sihe (Helena) Zhang, Ph.D., P.E.</b><br>Assistant Professor<br>Kettering University |
|---|--|---|--|



**Moderators:**

**Paulami Majumdar, Ph.D.**  
Assoc. Research Scientist  
Dow

**Anne-Catherine Bedard, Ph.D.**  
Research Scientist  
Dow



## Cosmetic Chemistry Networking and Seminar Summary

*Dale Lecaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS*

The Chemistry Department at Central Michigan University had an exciting week! On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, the Chemistry Department hosted a Cosmetic Chemistry Networking and Seminar event which drew twenty-one professionals from Amway, Dow, Central Michigan University, University of Toledo, and Advancion.



To kick off the event, we had invited President MacKinnon to share a few words since he has a background in hospital administration and cosmetic chemistry before diving right into our career networking event for our diverse group of students from Central Michigan University Freshman Honors, Central Michigan University Chemistry & Biochemistry, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Toledo, and University of Michigan, totaling twenty students.

They had approximately five minutes at each table with a professional and had the opportunity to learn about each person's role and experience working in the cosmetic chemistry field. It was amazing to see all the students so engaged and interested, and we are so grateful to everyone with the Michigan Chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists and the ACS Midland Section for helping us organize this event for these students.

They had approximately five minutes at each table with a professional and had the opportunity to learn about each person's role and experience working in



We would also like to thank the students in our ACS student group, who contributed greatly to the success of this event. From running the registration table, handling the posters, and setting up tables and chairs for the various events, we could not have pulled this off without you!



To close out the event, Heather Dusek from Advancion gave a seminar called “The Hidden Power of Neutralizers: How a Small Change Shifts an Entire Formulation.” This seminar must have been difficult to put together because she was presenting to professionals in the field with quite a bit of background knowledge, as well as students who may not have developed that knowledge base yet. She did a phenomenal job, and both students and professionals were asking questions at the end.



We are so excited for the remainder of our events this semester, and we are hopeful that we will be able to organize more networking opportunities for students to show them just how many paths they can take with a chemistry degree.

## 2026 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest, Submission Deadline April 10

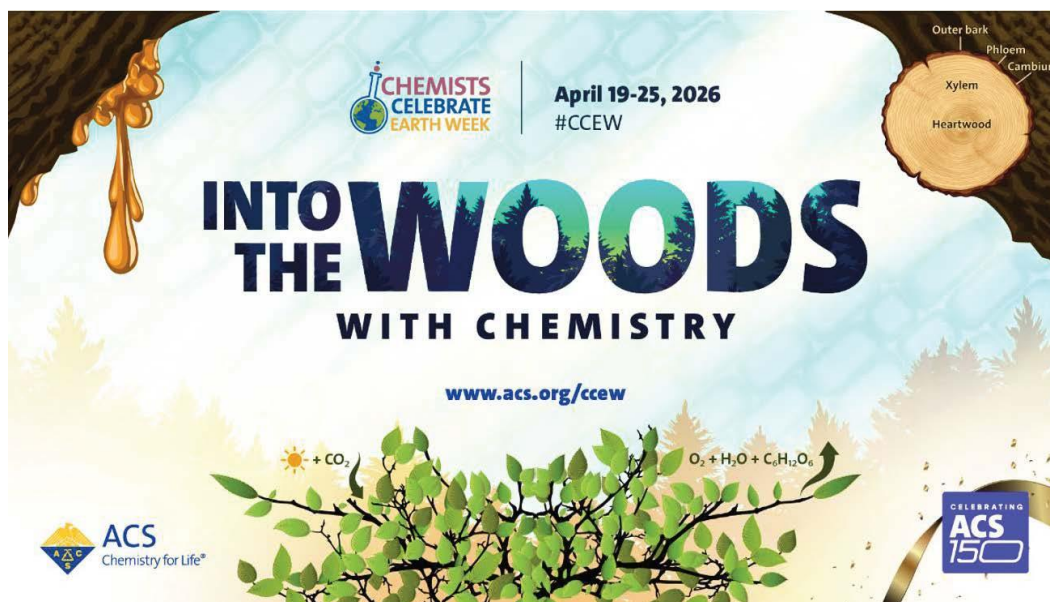
Hannah Bailey, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

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 Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) theme – **Into the Woods with Chemistry**.

**Contest Deadline: Friday, April 10, 2026**

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

Contact: [HannahBailey@dow.com](mailto:HannahBailey@dow.com)



**This illustrated poem 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 ACS National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

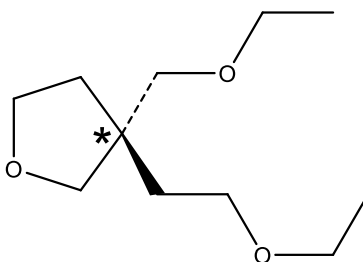
Please visit [Illustrated Poem Contest – Chemists Celebrate Earth Week – American Chemical Society \(acs.org\)](https://www.acs.org/ccew) for complete rules.

Please submit your poems and illustrations to Hannah Bailey at [HannahBailey@dow.com](mailto:HannahBailey@dow.com). Thank you.

## Seventh *R,S*-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, ACS Fellow, Midland Section

Here's the seventh *R,S*-puzzle.



What is the correct absolute configuration designation, *R* or *S*, for the carbon atom indicated by the asterisk? Send your answer by email to [w.dilling@att.net](mailto:w.dilling@att.net). Only one answer per person please. The first correct answer submitted wins.

We'll keep track of the score by institution with a 5, 3, 1 point system. The score presently after six puzzles is SVSU 20, CMU 8 (all others 0), or SVSU 4, CMU 1 (first places only). See *The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, 62 (June), p 12; and **2026**, 63 (March), p 16, for the first and most recent *R,S* puzzle reports, respectively.

## ACS Spring 2026 Meeting Atlanta, Georgia, March 22-26, 2026, Summary from Council

Dale Lecaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS

Candidates for President-Elect, 2027: John Adams, Lisa McElwee-White, Mary Virginia Orna, and Laura Sremaniak. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Laura Sremaniak** and **Lisa McElwee-White** as candidates for 2027 President-Elect.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large for the 2027-2029 term: Michael (Mick) Hurrey, Beth Lorsbach, William Provine, and Carolyn Ribes (incumbent). The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates will be conducted in the fall.

Council voted [Yes 377 (95.93%) / No 16 (4.07%)] to amend the name and duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) and change its name to the Committee Fiscal Affairs (CFA). This change reflects the growth and increased complexity of Society operations.

- CFA will continue to focus on financial stewardship of governance and component groups.
- A planned Board Finance Committee will have fiduciary responsibility and enterprise-level focus.

Committee preference form is open to all ACS members through July 6. ANY ACS member interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2026 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](http://CMTE.acs.org) to complete your preferences.

The Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) reported that in 2025, ACS had a net revenue of \$50.7 million from operations and met all five of its financial guidelines. Over the past 25 years, revenue has more than doubled, with a fourfold increase in unrestricted net assets. ACS receives 58% of revenue from outside of North America and is active in 56 different jurisdictions.

## NOBCCChE Regional Symposium, July 24-26 (Early Registration Deadline April 11)

Angelar Muthike, Director, Midland Section ACS

Final Extension  
For Early Bird  
Registration


**Early Bird Registration Deadline – April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
\$20 Student  
\$75 Professional

Discounted student housing available at a flat rate of \$50 for the entire stay to students who register by **April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Student Housing closes and registration cost increases after April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Registration <https://pci.jotform.com/form/260544359476163>

Note: Abstracts for poster presentations must be submitted at the time of registration & may be considered for oral presentation upgrade if submitted by **04/11**.




**The NOBCCChE Midwest Region Presents:**

**“ReActivating, ReCharging, and Releasing the Midwest”**


**Regional Symposium | Collaborative Meeting**


**When:** July 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), Columbus, Ohio



CAS  
A Division of the American Chemical Society





NOBCCChE  
collaborative

Questions? Contact either:  
Dr. Muhammad ([mwregion@nobcche.org](mailto:mwregion@nobcche.org)) or Dr. Muthike ([angelarkmuthike@gmail.com](mailto:angelarkmuthike@gmail.com))

Registration link: [2026 Midwest Region Symposium @ Collab](#)

## Looking for Siebert Elementary School Science Fair Judges, April 16

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

**Attention to all those who want to help inspire the next generation of scientists!** Siebert Elementary School in Midland is looking for volunteer judges for their annual science fair on **Thursday, April 16**. Last year there were 61 projects (some of them were group projects). There are age categories and rubrics – the science project’s owners are interviewed.

The Midland Section ACS has provided some judges in the past, and I always do an “activity” table to involve families and those waiting to be judged. This event is well attended and runs from about **5:30 to 8:30 PM**, which includes food for the volunteers at 5:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please let me know ([reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com)). I will put you in touch with the school after we get a list of volunteer judges (**10 judges in total are needed**). Thank you in advance!

American Chemical Society – Midland Section  
P.O. Box 2695, Midland, MI 48641-2695 [www.midlandacs.org](http://www.midlandacs.org)

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## 2026 Earth Action Expo, April 25

*Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS*

The Earth Action Expo in Midland, the largest Earth Day event in our area, has been taking place at Dow High School on Saginaw Road in Midland every year since 2021, following a tradition of annual Earth Day programs (mostly at the Midland Center for the Arts) since 2006 (except for 2020).

The primary organizers of the event are the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society and the Dow High School Go Green Club. Exhibit tables are free. Commercial vendors are limited and by invitation only. Sponsorships are also available. Attendance is free.



Our objectives are to educate all ages relative to environmental stewardship and the benefits and bounty of nature. We encourage engagement in earth-friendly activities and offer options for re-purposing and recycling of materials from cloth to electronics. We aim for a Zero Waste event and have speakers each year. The yearly theme (from the National American Chemical Society) supplies a suggestion for exhibit and speaker topics. The Earth Action Expo is always held on the last Saturday of April, and the 2026 event is slated for Saturday, April 25.

Food trucks, EVs, invited speakers, and over 70 exhibitors are anticipated to be part of this year's community outreach event. For more information, please see <https://earthactionexpo.org/>. For any questions or to volunteer, please contact Gina Malczewski at [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com).



ACS Younger Chemists Committee Millennial Trivia, April 29  
Kalyani Jangam, Dow, Arpita Sharma (DuPont), and Alejandro Hernandez (DuPont)

ACS  
American Chemical Society

YCC  
The Future of Chemistry

**90s KIDS,  
2000 RULES  
TRIVIA NIGHT**

BRITNEY  
EMINEM  
OUTKAST

THE ULTIMATE  
MILLENNIAL  
REWIND!

Please Sign up!

Date: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Time: 5 to 7 PM

at **MI** Elements Brewery, Midland

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF NOSTALGIA & FUN!

## 2026 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series, June 9

*Robert A. Bubeck, Research Professor, MSU St. Andrews, Midland*

MSU St. Andrews is pleased to announce the 2026 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series. This year's guest lecturer is Professor John Torkelson, Walter P. Murphy Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: MSU St. Andrews, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, Midland

Guest Lecturer: Prof. John Torkelson

### About Prof. John Torkelson

John Torkelson is a Walter P. Murphy Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University. John received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1978 and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1983. He has been on the faculty at Northwestern since 1983, where he also served as Assistant Department Chair in Chemical Engineering from 1992 to 1995 and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science from 1997 to 2002. During 2003–2006, John was the Director of the Materials Research Center at Northwestern University, which receives its main funding from the NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) Program.



**Prof. John Torkelson**

Additional information about Prof. Torkelson can be found on his faculty profile page at the Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering website: <https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/research-faculty/directory/profiles/torkelson-john.html>. A link to his extensive professional CV may also be found at that website.

### Research Interests

Professor Torkelson's current and recent research interests are in the following areas:

- Glass-forming polymer systems and their nanoscale, heterogeneous relaxation processes
- Green polymer processing and manufacture, especially solid-state shear pulverization and controlled radical polymerization
- Ultrathin films, coatings, and membranes
- Polymer nanocomposites, especially related to issues of nanofiller (e.g., clay, carbon nanotube, ceramic nanoparticle) dispersion by solid-state shear pulverization and impact of dispersion on properties
- Gradient copolymers, including synthesis, property-structure relationships, and use as compatibilizers of immiscible blends
- Phase behavior of blends and copolymer-solvent systems
- Polymerization reaction engineering, especially free radical polymerization (conventional and controlled), and sensors
- Diffusion and diffusion-limited processes in polymers
- Associative polymers forming physical gels

- Optical characterization and sensors: fluorescence, nonlinear optics, photochromism, single-molecule microscopy

Professor Torkelson's research program integrates polymer physics, chemistry, and engineering to address fundamental questions in soft materials while advancing sustainable manufacturing technologies. He has authored more than 470 peer-reviewed publications, and his work has been cited over 23,000 times. His h-index of 82 reflects the sustained impact and influence of his scholarship across polymer science, materials engineering, and soft condensed matter physics.

### **Agenda and Lecture Topics**

- 9:00 AM Introduction and Housekeeping Items
- 9:15 AM Seminar 1 – Upcycling Virgin and Waste Thermoplastic Polyethylene, Polypropylene, and Related Copolymers into Covalent Adaptable Networks that Recover Crosslink Density upon Recycling – John M. Torkelson
- 10:00 AM Discussion
- 10:15 AM Seminar 2 – Sustainable, Recyclable Alternatives to Polyurethane Networks: Biobased and Biowaste-based Non-isocyanate Polyurethane (NIPU) and Non-isocyanate Polythiourethane (NIPTU) Covalent Adaptable Networks (CANs) as Bulk Materials and Foams – John M. Torkelson
- 11:00 AM Discussion
- 11:15 AM Break
- 11:30 AM Professor Torkelson Guest Speaker Presentation
- 12:15 PM Discussion
- 12:30 PM Lunch Break
- 2:00 PM Seminar 3 – Dissociative vs. Associative Dynamics in Covalent Adaptable Networks (CANs): Fundamental Differences in What Controls the Relaxation Times and Activation Energies as Well as the Reprocessability and Self-Healing Natures of CANs – John M. Torkelson
- 2:45 PM Discussion
- 3:00 PM Seminar 4 – Fragility is a Key Controlling Factor in the  $T_g$ -Confinement Effects of Polymers: How Do We Know This and How May We Exploit This Knowledge to Eliminate the Effect? – John M. Torkelson
- 3:45 PM Discussion
- 4:00 PM Closing Remarks

## Pre-registration

This is a free event, but pre-registration is required to help plan the networking luncheon. Please register no later than Sunday, June 7, 2026, by going to [2026 Tuner J. Alfrey Visiting Professorship Lecture Registration](#).

Please share the information about this event with others that may be interested in attending. For more information, please contact Bob Bubeck at [bubeck@msu.edu](mailto:bubeck@msu.edu).

## Middle School Summer Camp, June 15-19

**Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS**

A free Middle School Summer Camp experience is being planned for Monday-Friday, June 15-19, 2026. This science-based summer camp will run each day from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at MSU St. Andrews, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, in Midland.

This year's summer camp theme is "Clean and Green: Chemistry and the Environment." For more information, any questions, or to volunteer, please contact Gina Malczewski at [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com). Also, please watch this newsletter for more information to follow.

## Celebrating ACS150: Chemistry is Everything

CELEBRATING  
**ACS150**  
Chemistry is Everything

2026

| JANUARY<br>LEADERSHIP   | FEBRUARY<br>INTEGRITY  | MARCH<br>INTERDISCIPLINARY   | APRIL<br>SUSTAINABILITY   |
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ACS  
Chemistry for Life®

Founding Day- April 6 | Founding Week April 6-10

ACS.org/150

ACS Fall 2026, August 23-27  
Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

[ACS Fall - American Chemical Society](#)



**ACS FALL 2026**

# Chemists Making History. Be Part of It.

Explore new research, expand your network, and connect with the community driving global innovation.

Chicago, IL & Digital | August 23-27

**Registration and housing open in May 2026.**

## 2026 ACS CERM – Save the Date, November 14-17

*Peter Koenig, Co-Chair, 2026 ACS CERM*

The Cincinnati Section of the ACS is pleased to announce the 2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM) ([www.acscerm2026.org](http://www.acscerm2026.org)), November 14-17, 2026. We look forward to welcoming chemists from across the region and beyond to Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky.

The 2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, KY, serving the Greater Cincinnati region and the broader Central United States. Under the theme **“Chemistry Beyond Boundaries: Building Trust, Breaking Myths,”** the meeting will bring together academic and industrial chemists, educators, and students for:

- Plenary and keynote lectures
- Technical symposia
- Student research poster sessions
- Professional development programming
- An Exposition and Graduate & Career Fair

CERM provides the scientific rigor of the ACS with the accessibility and energy of a regional professional community. Aside from the standard general chemistry topics, technical and non-technical programming will emphasize the meeting theme by exploring innovative research and practical applications that highlight transparency, reproducibility, and communication.

### **We plan to include sessions on the following topics:**

- Advanced Polymer Characterization
- Sustainability & Renewable Energy
- AI & Automation
- Chemical Biology & Therapeutics
- Environmental Chemistry & Sensing
- Advanced Catalysis
- Additive Manufacturing of Advanced Materials
- Region specific topic (Soft Matter, Adhesives)

Advanced polymer characterization will showcase emerging analytical techniques that reveal crucial structure-property relationships in next-generation polymers, ensuring claims are grounded in rigorous science. In sustainability and renewable energy, breakthroughs in green syntheses and circular-economy designs will be explored, supported by transparent life cycle assessments that counter greenwashing claims and drive a low-carbon future.

We will delve into AI and automation, where integrating machine learning and automated platforms accelerate discovery. These sessions will emphasize best practices for ensuring data quality and transparency, dispelling myths around AI as a "black box." Local industry applications will be highlighted through region-specific case



studies, addressing local anti-science narratives and showcasing innovations from soft-matter consumer products to advanced adhesives.

Further discussions will cover advances in chemical biology and therapeutics, reinforcing chemistry's role in health and biotech with reproducible and open protocols. Environmental chemistry and sensing sessions will focus on developing next-generation sensors and community-driven monitoring programs, enhancing public trust through effective communication. The program will also include innovations in advanced catalysis, unlocking new bond-forming strategies with minimal waste, and additive manufacturing of advanced materials, where multi-material and nanoscale printing accelerates innovation in tailored catalysts and sensors.

### How you can help:

We are asking for your help by enrolling your community and the chemical enterprise to make our conference even more successful.

1. Please announce the conference to your members via newsletters, social media, and at local section meetings.
2. We aim to promote the diverse professional interests in our region and would appreciate your contribution! We are still looking for leaders who are willing to organize and host sessions. A glimpse at the [conference program](#) is available on our website: [www.acscerm2026.org](http://www.acscerm2026.org).
3. We are looking for nominations for awards, too. Nomination forms and [detailed descriptions are available on our website](#).
  - ACS Division of Chemical Education Central Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching
  - E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society
  - Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences
  - Regional Industrial Innovation Award
4. We are looking for sponsors and organizations interested in taking part in the exhibition. Here is a link to our [sponsor/exhibitor prospectus](#). We need introductions to contacts for companies and organizations in your area who are willing to contribute. As you reach out to your industrial contacts, please also mention the [Regional Industrial Innovation Award](#). Thank you.



## Diversity and Inclusion Highlights


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


In this month's Chair column, beginning on page 1, Midland Section Chair Judith Espinoza noted that the *Diversity and Inclusion Committee* celebrated Women's History Month in March by highlighting Jamie Weishuhn and Jordan Reddel. Their stories appeared on the [ACS Diversity and Inclusion - Midland Section](#) Facebook page. Copies of the summary slides from those Facebook highlights are reprinted below.

National Women's History Month

Profile of women scientists

Diversity & Inclusion Committee





### Jamie Weishuhn (she/her)

Chemical Technologist Lead – Core R&D - Dow  
Associate of Science + additional coursework

**What advice would you give your 20 year old self?**  
*I would tell my 20-year-old self that you don't have to know exactly where your career will go. What you think is "your thing" at the time might change, and that's okay.*

*Stay curious and be open to opportunities. Sometimes simply showing up, learning from the people around you, and paying attention to what you enjoy can lead you to a career you truly love.*

**What inspired you to become a scientist?**  
*My path into science wasn't something I planned from the beginning. I started at Dow right out of high school as a contract lab assistant. At the time, I didn't know exactly what kind of career I wanted, but I quickly realized I loved working in the lab environment. The scientists I worked with early on made chemistry incredibly interesting and exciting. Being around their curiosity and problem-solving mindset inspired me. While working full time, I pursued my college education and eventually became a Dow employee working in corporate R&D. Over the years I've had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects and chemistry, and that variety is one of the things I love most. I can honestly say I've never been bored in my role.*

**Did anyone have a particular impact on your career choice?**  
*My parents had a big impact on my mindset even though neither of them were college graduates. They always encouraged me to find something I truly enjoyed doing for a living. Professionally, the scientists I worked with early in my career played an important role. They took the time to explain what they were doing and why it mattered, which made chemistry feel exciting and approachable. That curiosity they shared with me really stuck.*


**What is your idea of happiness? How has your identity as a woman scientist shaped what success looks like for you?**  
*Happiness, to me, comes from finding joy in what you do each day. We only get one chance at this life, so I believe in embracing it fully and enjoying the journey. As a woman scientist, success means more than just technical achievements—it's also about fostering a supportive, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. Helping others thrive and feel empowered makes my work truly meaningful.*


**Any fun facts you want to share?**  
*I genuinely love being in the lab environment — and I'll admit that I actually enjoy the smell of melting polymers! Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, gardening, creative projects, and finding ways to bring people together. Creating positive experiences and connections with others is something I truly enjoy both inside and outside the workplace.*

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### Jordan Reddel, Ph.D.

Senior R&D Leader – Machine Learning, Optimization, and Statistics Team, Core R&D, Dow  
Ph.D. Organic Chemistry

**What advice would you give your 20 year old self?**  
*Try to take time to enjoy and appreciate the present, rather than worrying about the future. This is advice I'm still trying to follow...*

**What inspired you to become scientist?**  
*I wanted to understand why natural remedies from herbs and plants worked. That led me to natural product synthesis, my subdiscipline of organic chemistry.*

**Did anyone (prof/mentor/family/other) have a particular impact on your career choice?**  
*My dad was a Major General before he retired from the military. He taught me what it means to be a leader, enabling and elevating others, and inspired me to pursue leadership in my field.*

**What would you like to be remembered for? What is your desired legacy?**  
*Want to be remembered for building and enabling technically excellent, strong, and supportive teams that continue to thrive long after I'm gone.*

**What do you consider your greatest achievement so far?**  
*Leading my team and helping them navigate through significant organizational change while completing the last two total syntheses of my career (growing and giving birth to my two sons).*

**What is your idea of happiness?**  
*After a lot of self-introspection, I no longer seek "happiness" in the traditional sense in my life or career and instead seek fulfillment. Many of the things that drive me, such as the need to constantly be challenged or to learn new things, are not conducive to what I view as happiness, but they do give me a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.*

## Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- April 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 [April 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- April 9 (12:00 – 1:00 PM) – *Thriving in New Environments*. Virtual panel highlighting the experiences of women in STEM. To submit questions and get a link to the meeting, please see the flyer on page 5 of this newsletter.
- April 10 – **RSVP deadline to attend the April 22 Midland Section ACS Spring Awards Recognition Banquet.** Information about the Spring Awards Banquet event and how you can register to attend is provided on pages 4 to 5 of this newsletter. For more information or any questions, please contact Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs Allison Abdilla or Kajari Bera at [awards@midlandacs.org](mailto:awards@midlandacs.org).
- April 10 – **Submission deadline for the 2026 Midland Section ACS-sponsored Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) Illustrated Poem Contest** using the CCEW theme, *Into the Woods with Chemistry*. Open to students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. For more information, please see the article on page 8 in this newsletter. For additional information or any questions, and to submit your poems and illustrations, please reach out to Hannah Bailey, Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee, at [HannahBailey@dow.com](mailto:HannahBailey@dow.com).
- April 16 (5:30 – 8:30 PM) – Siebert Elementary School (Midland) Science Fair volunteer judge opportunity. There are age categories and rubrics, and the science projects owners are interviewed. For more information, please see the article on page 10 in this newsletter. And if this opportunity interests you, please reach out to Gina Malczewski, Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee, at [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com), to volunteer.
- April 22 (5:30 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Spring Awards Recognition Banquet, Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, 5121 Bay City Road, Midland. Cost: \$20 per person, payable online ahead of time or payable at the door (cash only) the evening of the event. **Spring Awards Banquet RSVP deadline: April 10.** Information about the Spring Awards Banquet event and how you can register to attend is provided on pages 4 to 5 in this newsletter. For more information or any questions, please contact Midland Section ACS Awards Committee Co-Chairs Allison Abdilla or Kajari Bera at [awards@midlandacs.org](mailto:awards@midlandacs.org).
- April 25 (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS co-sponsored outreach event, *Earth Action Expo*, Dow High School, Midland. Food trucks, EVs, invited speakers, and over 70 exhibitors are anticipated to be part of this community outreach event. For more information, please see the article on page 11 in this newsletter, and for additional information, please see <https://earthactionexpo.org/>. For any questions or to volunteer, please contact Gina Malczewski at [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com).
- April 29 (5:00 – 7:00 PM) – ACS YCC Millennial Trivia. Location: MI Elements Brewery, Midland. For more information and to sign up, please see the flyer on page 12 of this newsletter.
- May 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 [May 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- June 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 [June 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- June 9 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) – 2026 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor program, featuring Prof. John Torkelson of Northwestern University. This event is free, but pre-registration is required no later than June 7 to help plan the networking luncheon. For more information, please see the article on pages 13 to 15 in

this newsletter. For any questions, please contact Dr. Robert Bubeck, Research Professor, MSU St. Andrews, at 989-374-9912 or [bubeck@msu.edu](mailto:bubeck@msu.edu).

- June 15-19 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM) – Free Middle School Summer Camp experience sponsored by the Midland Section ACS. The summer camp will be held at MSU St. Andrews, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, in Midland. The theme of this year's science-based summer camp is "*Clean and Green: Chemistry and the Environment.*" For more information, any questions, or to volunteer, please contact Gina Malczewski at [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com). Also, please watch this newsletter for more information to follow.
- July 24-26, 2026 – NOBCChE Regional Symposium, *ReActivating, ReCharging, and Releasing the Midwest*. Location: CAS, Columbus, Ohio. **Early Registration Deadline is April 11.** For more information, please see the flyer on page 10 of this newsletter.
- August 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 [August 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- August 23-27, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, Chicago, IL. This meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see the information on page 16 or click on [ACS Fall 2026](#). Please note: The deadline for abstract submissions was March 30, 2026.
- September 14 (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 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- October 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 [October 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- November 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 [November 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.
- November 14-17, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2026), hosted by the Cincinnati Section of the ACS. The 2026 ACS CERM will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, in Covington, KY, serving the Greater Cincinnati region and the broader Central United States. Meeting theme – *Chemistry Beyond Boundaries: Building Trust, Breaking Myths*. For more information, please see the article on pages 17 to 18 in this newsletter, and watch here for more information to follow.
- December 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 [December 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jj34ZJ.

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**Volunteer Staff**

Vickie Langer  
Steve Keinath  
Mike Malczewski

Editor ([vlanger@dow.com](mailto:vlanger@dow.com))  
Editor ([skeinath54@charter.net](mailto:skeinath54@charter.net))  
Webmaster ([web@midlandacs.org](mailto:web@midlandacs.org))

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