THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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Contents

Chair Column

Judith Espinoza, Chair, Midland Section ACS

Dear Readers,

Since moving to Michigan in 2022, I have come to appreciate not only the beauty of this state, but also the strong sense of community that defines it. Over time, I have learned that a place truly feels like home because of the people who shape it. For me, the Midland Section ACS has been an important part of that experience. The dedication of the volunteers who sustain our section continues to inspire me as we approach the middle of the year.

This perspective aligns with this month's ACS anniversary theme, ***Partnership***. For 150 years, the ACS has demonstrated that progress in chemistry depends on collaboration, trust, and a shared sense of purpose. These same principles are reflected in the relationships that sustain our section's programs, outreach efforts, and ongoing engagement with the broader community. I encourage you to watch this month's ACS thematic video: How this CEO uses partnership to transform lives through science education | ACS150.

Over the past month, our section hosted two signature events that showcase partnership in action: the 2026 Spring Awards Recognition Banquet and the Earth Action Expo. Both were made possible through the collective efforts of many individuals and organizations. The Midland Section ACS collaborates closely with local schools, from elementary through high school, as well as universities across the counties we serve. We also partner with chemistry teachers in the area, city departments, local businesses, and other professional organizations to advance our shared mission.

From the Chair's perspective, one of the most rewarding aspects is the opportunity to witness both the dedicated work behind the scenes and the meaningful impact these events have on participants. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the *Chemistry Olympiad Committee, Awards Committee,* and *Outreach Committee* for their dedication and commitment in bringing these events to a successful conclusion. I also had the pleasure of witnessing the strong support provided by past chairs of the Awards Committee to new chairs, ensuring a smooth transition. Thank you for your continued guidance and mentorship, too. I had the opportunity to attend both events, and the feeling afterward was the same. Seeing the smiles on participants and the inspiration they carried with them was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. Moments like these renew our motivation to continue supporting initiatives that showcase chemistry with purpose.

As we continue through this ACS milestone anniversary year, I am grateful for the many partnerships that strengthen our section and make its work possible. Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, expertise, and support to the Midland Section ACS. Your commitment continues to shape a vibrant community that exemplifies the very best of chemistry in action.

Midland Section ACS Lunch & Learn Seminar, May 28

Reggie Bou Zerdan, Nominations & Elections Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS

Please join us for a Midland Section ACS Lunch & Learn Seminar which will take place on Thursday, May 28, at MSU St. Andrews (1910 West St Andrews Rd, Midland).

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Lunch & Networking
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Seminar
Lunch RSVP:	Midland ACS Lunch & Learn

Topic: High Throughput Surfactant Characterization for Correlation to Cleaning Efficiency

Speaker: Rebecca V. Balaj, Senior Research Specialist, Core R&D, Dow

ACS Chemistry for Life™

ACS MIDLAND SECTION LUNCH & LEARN

High Throughput Surfactant Characterization for Correlation to Cleaning Efficiency

Abstract:
High throughput research (HTR) has enabled the rapid characterization of relevant molecular parameters and phase behaviors for a plethora of surfactants in oil-water systems, ensuring the adoption of HTR workflows as valuable for industrial and commercial cleaning formulation development. This work employs the following HTR strategy to determine HLD parameters for commercial secondary alcohol ethoxylates: first, robot liquid handlers are used to prepare samples, before a second robot is used to capture images of the resultant phase behavior; finally, images are analyzed to measure the volume fraction of excess water and oil phases in any observed multi-phase systems. An intrinsic parameter for each surfactant, the characteristic curvature (CC), is subsequently found, and the correlation between characteristic curvature, surfactant solubilization, and partitioning behavior with cleaning efficiency for laundry formulations is determined.

Rebecca V. Balaj
Senior Research Specialist
Core R&D – DOW

Speaker Biography
Becca is a Senior Research Specialist in the Core R&D Materials Discovery and Development (MDD) team within Dow Chemical, championing high throughout capability development and innovation related to formulation and colloidal science. Becca holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Penn State, where her graduate work focused on reconfigurable complex droplets and later examined the non-equilibrium partitioning of surfactant molecules into micron scale oil droplets. At Dow, Becca collaborates with several businesses to develop high throughput workflows for testing fundamental hypotheses, screening material properties, and designing products related to cleaning science, durable water and oil repellent coatings, and data cooling centers. She has demonstrated extensive involvement with scientific outreach as a NASA Consortium Fellow and is a driver of continued collaboration between industry and academia, having received the ACS COLL Emerging Investigator Award in 2025.

Lunch RSVP

Thursday, May 28th
MSU St. Andrews (1910 West St Andrews Rd, Midland MI)
11:30 – 12:00pm Lunch & Networking
12:00 – 1:00pm Seminar

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

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.

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. He is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society and is widely recognized for excellence in both research and teaching.

About Logan Fenimore

Accompanying Prof. Torkelson will be Dr. Logan Fenimore. Logan completed a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 2020, and a Ph.D. degree with the Torkelson group in 2025. He is currently working with the Torkelson group as a NIST NRC Postdoctoral Fellow. Logan has been named a Ryan Fellow, and he has also recently received 1st place in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Regional Conference Poster Competition for his work in (re)processable polythiourethane dynamic networks.

Dr. Fenimore's research interests are listed below:

Dr. Logan Fenimore

Research Interests

- Design and construction of (re)processable polymer networks containing thermo-responsive cross-links as sustainable alternatives to thermosets
- Synthesis-structure-property relationships of polymer networks and gels with complex architectures, i.e., percolated and/or non-percolated, dynamic or non-dynamic covalent cross-links, non-covalent associative bonding interactions, entanglements
- Temperature-, strain-, and strain-rate-dependent physics of associative-type dynamic covalent polybutadiene and polydimethylsiloxane networks
- Linear and non-linear viscoelastic characterization of polymer networks and gels by rheology and cavitation
- Structure-property-processing relationships of polyolefin elastomers and networks containing dissociative-type dynamic covalent cross-links

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 Seminar 3: Covalent Adaptable Networks – Fundamentals Associated with Dynamics to Engineering Advances in Processing and Self-Healing (Logan M. Fenimore)

12:15 PM Discussion

12:30 PM Lunch Break

2:00 PM Seminar 4: 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 5: 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.

Supporting Student Success, One Bourbon Pull at a Time

Michelle Rivard, Project SEED Coordinator, Midland Section ACS

Last year's Bourbon Pull events were a tremendous success, raising nearly **$6,000** across three events. This achievement would not have been possible without the incredible generosity and enthusiasm of our community. We extend our sincere thanks to all our **donors**, who contributed standout bottles, and to every **ticket buyer** who helped make these events both fun and meaningful.

Featured Bottles Preview

This year's Bourbon Pull will feature a curated mix of crowd favorites along with a few **premium and harder-to-find bottles**. We also anticipate including a limited number of **"chaser" bottles** – special selections that add an extra level of excitement to the event. While every bourbon pull is a surprise, there is always the excitement of potentially walking away with something truly special. The variety and quality of bottles continue to grow each year thanks to the generosity of our community.

The funds raised directly support student development and access to professional opportunities. The majority of the proceeds will be used to sponsor travel for this summer's Project SEED students, enabling them to present their research at upcoming scientific meetings. Students will have the opportunity to attend either the **American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall Meeting in Chicago** or the **Central Regional Meeting (CERM) in Cincinnati**, where they will showcase their work through poster presentations, engage with professionals in the field, and build valuable networks that support their future careers.

A small amount of the funds will be reinvested into this year's Bourbon Pull events, helping us sustain and grow this successful fundraising effort. Looking ahead, we anticipate even greater needs. The **2027 ACS Fall Meeting in San Diego** will provide another outstanding opportunity for students, but travel costs will be significantly higher. To ensure we can continue offering these transformative experiences to a strong group of students, we are aiming to expand our fundraising efforts in the coming year.

Your continued support makes a lasting difference. By participating in the Bourbon Pull, you are not only contributing to a fun and engaging event – you are investing in the next generation of chemical professionals.

Thank you for helping make these opportunities possible.

Science Café & Bourbon Pull, June 11
Michelle Rivard, Project SEED Coordinator, Midland Section ACS

Summer STEAM Activities
Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

Outreach continues after school lets out! Below is a list of just some of the activities that the Midland Section ACS is offering this summer:

- The Exhibit Honoring 150 years of the ACS and the Contributions of the Midland Section ACS continues at the Bay County Historical Society (BCHS).
- We will be gardening at the Circle Garden at 209 Cambridge, formerly a city-managed effort. All ACS produce will be donated to local food pantries and garden-related programming will be offered.
- We will be collaborating with the Bay Area YMCA, the Bay County Community Center, BCHS, and MSU St. Andrews (MSU-SA) to offer summer programs as part of a grant.
- We will offer a free middle school Summer Camp with MSU-SA at their building, June 15-19 , 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, "Clean and Green – Chemistry and the Environment"
- We will be offering hands-on science related to carbon dioxide at River Days on August 1.

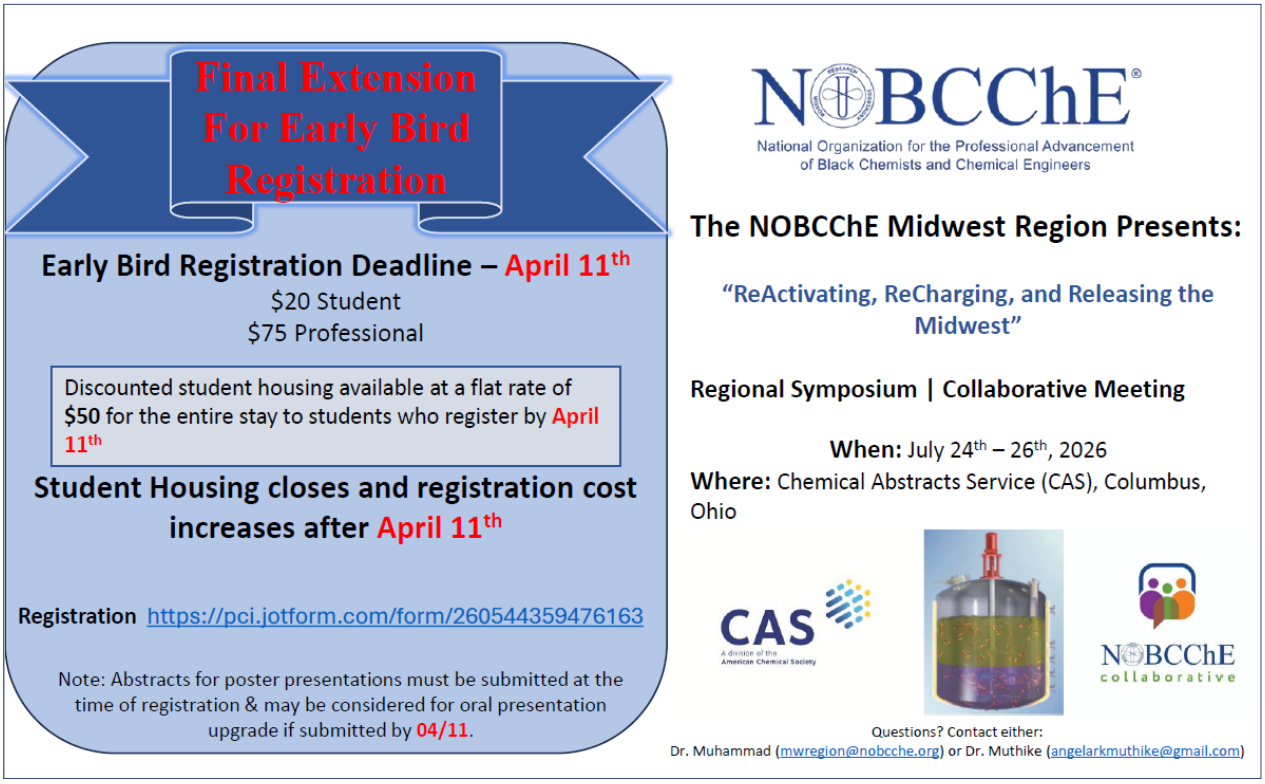
If you would like more information about any of these events or activities, or would like to volunteer, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginmalczewski@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

STEAM Stew 2026 – 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.

NOBCChE Midwest Regional Symposium, July 24-26
Angelar Muthike, Director, Midland Section ACS



Registration link: 2026 Midwest Region Symposium @ Collab

2026 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad in the Midland Section ACS
Michael Tulchinsky, Chemistry Olympiad Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS

Eighty-eight chemistry students from four mid-Michigan high schools located in three counties participated in the first round of the 2026 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) in the week of March 9-13, 2026. This year the Midland Section ACS territory expanded to include sixteen additional counties located in the northeast portion of the lower peninsular and the Thumb area of Michigan. We contacted the schools in the new counties with information about the Chemistry Olympiad, and we are looking forward to offering the program to them in 2027.

The AP chemistry teachers at H.H. Dow High School, Midland High School, Mount Pleasant High School, and Heritage High School administered the USNCO Local Section Exam in their schools. The Midland Section ACS purchased the exam sets from the National ACS and provided the materials to participating schools. The test included sixty multiple choice chemistry questions for about two hours. All the students who took this test were recognized with ACS certificates.

Then the Midland Section ACS nominated eight students (and designated alternate students to replace those nominees who may be not available) to the USNCO National Exam based on their Local Section Exam performance and taking into account the compulsory limit of two students per school. Eventually, eight students accepted the nominations and took part in the USNCO National Exam at Saginaw Valley State University on April 11, 2026.

The following students competed in the USNCO National Exam: Emma Huang and Aidan Johnson from H.H. Dow High School (chemistry teacher Dr. Julie Smallfield), Allison Thompson and Andrew Herman from Midland High School (chemistry teacher Kristin Weston), Luke Wirsing and Damian Marcinek from Mount Pleasant High School (chemistry teacher Jason Brown), and LaVell Carter and Veehan Chokshi from Heritage High School (chemistry teacher Melanie Galonska).

The National Exam consisted of three parts: Part I – 60 multiple choice questions, Part II – eight questions requiring problem-solving and explanations, and Part III – two experimental tasks in a laboratory. The students who participated in the National Exam along with their parents and teachers received invitations to the Midland Section ACS Spring Awards Recognition Banquet on April 22, 2026. The Midland Section recognized the participants with National ACS certificates and awarded them with ACS honor cords. The chemistry teachers also received ACS recognition for the guidance and encouragement given to these students. In addition, Emma Huang received a special gift for the highest score in the Midland Section Local Exam, which this year was 52 out of 60 points.

Photo 1: The National Exam students after taking two written tests at SVSU (from left to right): Allison Thompson, Andrew Herman, Luke Wirsing, Aidan Johnson, LaVell Carter, Veehan Chokshi, Emma Huang, and Damian Marcinek.

Photo 2: The National Exam students in the lab at SVSU (from left to right): Veehan Chokshi, LaVell Carter, Andrew Herman, Allison Thompson, Aidan Johnson, Damian Marcinek, Luke Wirsing, and Emma Huang. Far right: volunteer Mr. Bruce Hart of SVSU.

Every year about 800-900 high school chemistry students contend in the USNCO National Exam nationally. The National USNCO taskforce invites the twenty highest scoring students to attend the Chemistry Olympiad Study Camp in June, the next level of the USNCO program. Finally, the top four contestants represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) taking place this year in July in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

This year's activity proceeded safely and without incidents. Five volunteers helped with the 2026 Chemistry Olympiad program. Dr. Anthony Revis served as the National Exam host at SVSU and Mr. Bruce Hart also at SVSU prepared the experimental sets for the lab practical. Dr. Jonathan Axtell and Dr. Mina Narouz, both from Dow, volunteered as USNCO National Exam proctors. Drs. Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera provided excellent support at the recognition and awards phase of the Olympiad. Dr. Judith Espinoza Perez, the Midland Section ACS Chair, backed and encouraged the Chemistry Olympiad activities. Dr. Michael Tulchinsky from Dow (retired) coordinated both the Local and National Exams, served as a proctor, and recognized the students and their chemistry teachers at the 2026 Midland Section ACS Spring Recognition Banquet.

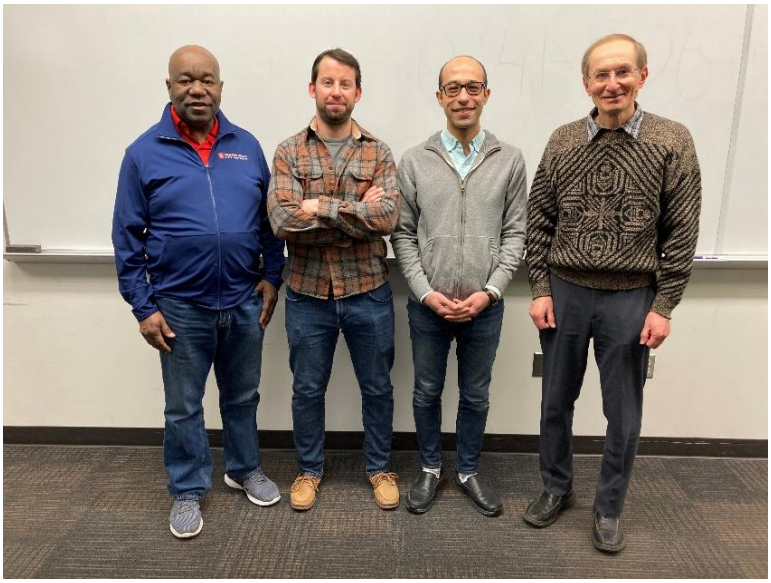


Photo 3: The National Exam volunteers (from left to right): Dr. Anthony Revis from SVSU, Drs. Jon Axtell and Mina Narouz from Dow, and Dr. Michael Tulchinsky from Dow (retired).

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

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 on 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.

A 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 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. The ACS receives 58% of its revenue from outside of North America and is active in 56 different jurisdictions.

2026 Earth Action Expo – Many Firsts for our Sixth Year at Dow High School

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section ACS began collaborating with the Dow High School Go Green Sustainability Club in 2021 for an Earth Day celebration now called the Earth Action Expo. In the last six years we have greatly increased the number of exhibitors as well as offerings. EVs have been added, as well as speakers, food trucks, and a display of the K-12 Illustrated Poem contest entries. This year's theme was "Into the Woods With Chemistry."

This year, our firsts included: the highest numbers of sponsors ever (Seven – Oswald Sign Company, Little Forks Conservancy, Midland Section ACS, Dow High Go Green, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland Recyclers, and GFL); a beverage vendor; use of new publicity tools including yard signs, high school newspapers, a new website (www.earthactionexpo.org), and the new Midland Section ACS Instagram page. We collected general live feedback at the event and had our biggest EV display to date – 12 cars of different makes and models, a van, a bus, and a truck (private and commercial owners as well as dealerships). A report on our EV display was published internationally at DEEM event in Midland, Michigan - about FSD and dealer participation.

Our luck with the weather has not yet improved. Attendance was down from last year, but we are still figuring out the best timing and will do a full debrief soon. Based on documented feedback to date, the quality and variety of exhibits and activities were excellent. If you attended and have not yet given feedback, feel free to provide some at the QR code on the previous page.

If you would like to join us as an exhibitor, volunteer, or sponsor for next year's Earth Action Expo event on April 24, 2027, please contact us at earthday@midlandacs.org.

Some happy customers at the ACS activity station at the Earth Action Expo (Photo by Gina Malczewski)

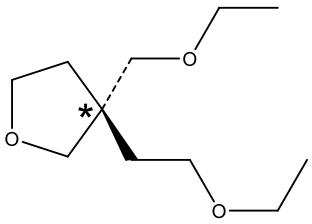
The wildlife rescue station at the Earth Action Expo (Photo by Dave Stickles)

EVs lined up at the Earth Action Expo. An electric Dial-a-Ride van is parked in the lot slightly to the right of the line of cars. An electric truck is parked near the building at the back of the photo. (Photo by Frank Malczewski)

Answer for Seventh *R,S*-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Midland Section ACS Chair, 2000

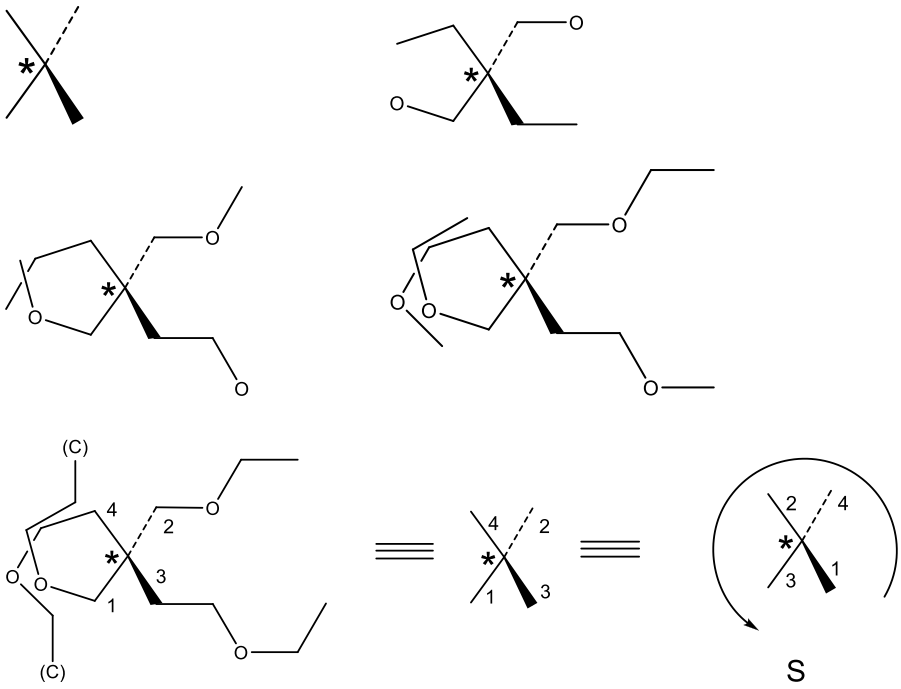
The seventh ***R,S***-puzzle [*The Midland Chemist*, **2026**, *63*, No. 4 (April), p 9] was to determine the absolute configuration designation of the carbon atom indicated by the asterisk in the following compound:



This was a particularly difficult puzzle. No one was able to come up with the correct answer, ***S***.

This compound was used in the 1994 book, *Stereochemistry of Organic Compounds*, by Eliel, Wilen, and Mander on pages 107-108 as an example of several nomenclature rules that are not often used (complementation, phantom atoms).

The solution to this puzzle can be understood by following the partial structures in order as follows:



Because no one got this ***R,S***-puzzle correct the score remains the same as last month, SVSU 20, CMU 8 (all others 0), or SVSU 4, CMU 1 (first places only). We'll continue to keep track of the score by institution or company with a 5, 3, 1 point system.

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

[ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society]

Midwest Regional Meeting, October 25-27

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Midwest Regional Meeting promotion team on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Midwest Regional Meeting

October 25 - 27, 2025 | Manhattan, KS

We are pleased to announce that abstract submission is now open for the **2026 Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (MWRM)**, hosted at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. The meeting will take place October 25–27, 2026, beginning at 2:00 PM on Sunday and concluding at 5:00 PM on Tuesday.

MWRM 2026 will feature an exciting scientific program, including plenary and public lectures from two distinguished chemists:

Plenary Lecturer: Professor Geri Richmond, Ph.D. University of Oregon • B.S. Kansas State University • Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley • Honorary Doctorate, Kansas State University • 2013 National Medal of Science • 2018 Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society

Public Lecturer: Professor Tom Kuntzleman, Ph.D. Wayne State University • B.S. Ed. Bloomsburg University • M.S. University of North Carolina, Greensboro • Ph.D. University of Michigan • 2022 YouTube Silver Creator Award • 2024 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach, ACS

Special Symposia and Workshops:

Science Writing Workshop (Sunday afternoon):
From Data to Story: Making Your Writing Clear, Compelling, and Memorable
Great science advances when scientists communicate it effectively. This interactive workshop helps participants uncover and communicate the story behind their research so that others can understand, use, and cite it. Participants will learn how to move beyond presenting results to crafting clear, compelling narratives in their writing and, through hands-on exercises, will distill their work into core story elements and revise them for clarity and impact.

Presenter: Theresa Merrick Cassidy, Writing Center Assistant Director, Presidential Engagement Fellow

Symposia:

- Advancement in Electrocatalytic Materials
- Recent Progress in Electrochemical Sensing, Energy Storage, and Synthesis
- Advances in Catalysis and Methods for Organic Synthesis
- Synthesis and Applications of Functional Polymeric Materials
- Advances in Molecular Probes for Therapeutics
- Machine Learning for Computational Chemistry
- Super-Resolved Spectroscopy
- Chemistry Under Nanoconfinement
- Theory, Modeling, and Simulation of Biomolecular Systems
- Midwest Awards Symposium
- Undergraduate Research

Additional oral and poster sessions will cover **Organic, Inorganic, Analytical, Biochemical, Physical, Theoretical Chemistry**, and more.

Abstract submission is open now through July 20, 2026, and we encourage you to share your latest research and join us in Manhattan, KS, for an engaging and inspiring regional meeting.

Submit an Abstract for 2026 MWRM

Southeastern Regional Meeting, November 4-7

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information in this article is reprinted, in part, from an email communication that was sent to all ACS members from the ACS Southeastern Regional Meeting promotion team on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Southeastern Regional Meeting

Nov 4 - 7, 2026 | Memphis, TN

We are excited to invite you to participate in the **2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS)**, taking place in Memphis, Tennessee. This special meeting coincides with the 150th anniversary of the American Chemical Society, and we are celebrating with an exceptional scientific program, focused symposia, and a historic presidential panel.

Key Program Highlights:

- **Opening Ceremony, and Plenary Address** by **Dr. Anang Shelat of St. Jude**
- **ACS Southern Chemist Award Plenary Double Header** featuring: • **Henry Fritz Schaefer III** (2019 Awardee) • **Sue Richardson** (2020 Awardee)
- **Super Plenary Presidential Panel**: "Change in ACS, Bridging Past to Present to Future" with: • 2006 ACS President **Ann Nalley** • 2008 ACS President **Bruce Bursten** • 2024 ACS President **Dorothy Phillips** • 2025 ACS President **Rigoberto Hernandez**
- **Symposia topics** include: Polymer Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Artificial Intelligence in Drug Discovery, Environmental Chemistry, and Chemical Regulation. The full list of symposia is available on the SERMACS 2026 website.

Abstract submissions for all symposia are now open and close on **August 3, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST**.

We encourage you to submit your work and join us in Memphis, TN, for an inspiring and memorable scientific gathering.

Submit an Abstract for 2026 SERMACS

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), 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
- 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.
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.

Abstract submissions for all symposia are now open. We encourage you to submit your work and join us in Covington, KY, for an inspiring and memorable scientific meeting.

Submit an Abstract for 2026 CERM

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).

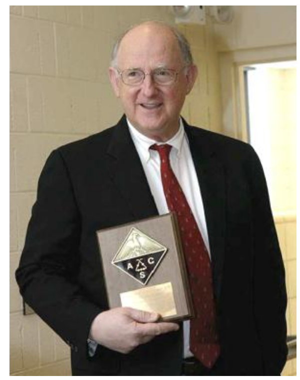
Now is the time to begin nominations for National ACS awards for 2026-2027 as most annual reviews have a deadline of around November 1, 2026.

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.

In Memoriam – Robert (Bob) Kohrman
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: Bob Kohrman's obituary notice as it appears below is reprinted, in part, from the Sunday, April 19, 2026, issue of the Mount Pleasant *Morning Sun* newspaper. Bob joined the American Chemical Society in 1965 and at the time of his passing he was a 61-year member of the ACS. Aside from simply being a member of the ACS, Bob was an active and engaged leader within the Midland Section ACS spanning four decades. Past Midland Section ACS Historian Wendell Dilling offers some comments about Bob Kohrman and his varied roles within the Midland Section ACS in the paragraph directly following. Finally, a companion article remembering Bob Kohrman and the impact that he had as a chemistry professor and university leader during his 39-year career at Central Michigan University may be found beginning on page 23 of this newsletter.



Wendell Dilling Comments: I was fortunate to spend 30-plus years interacting with Bob Kohrman in ACS activities and at CMU as a volunteer in the Chemistry Department. We co-directed four Project SEED students together at CMU. Bob served in many, varied service roles within the Midland Section ACS, as follows: Educational Activities Committee, 1982-1984; Board of Directors, 1984-1992; Executive Committee, 1986-1987; Treasurer, 1986; Project SEED Preceptor, 1982-1984, 1989-1992; Chair-Elect, 1993; Chair, 1994; Past Chair, 1995; and Long Range Planning Committee Chair, 1995. In addition, while serving with me as an Assistant Historian of the Midland Section ACS for 26 years from 1997 to 2023, he did much of the background research on Midland Section ACS officers and helped with assembling the Centennial Poster of 100 years of Midland Section ACS Chairs in 2019. He did the same thing for the Midland Local Section in 1994 at the time of our Section's 75th anniversary. Finally, Bob was the recipient of two of the Midland Section ACS's most prestigious awards, the Outstanding College Chemistry Teaching Award in 1991, and the Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences Award in 2006.

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Robert (Bob) Kohrman, age 85, of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 5, 2026. Born on December 17, 1940, in Hannibal, Missouri, he was the son of George and Elsie Kohrman. On September 1, 1962, he married the love of his life, Cordelia "Dee" Kohrman, in Manchester, Massachusetts, beginning a partnership defined by devotion, shared purpose, and a deep love of family.

Bob's life was marked by a steadfast commitment to education, curiosity, and service. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, his Master of Science from Miami University in Ohio, and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It should be noted that his career in chemistry was inspired by his high school chemistry teacher Carl Engels. Though he had opportunities to pursue a more lucrative career in industry, Bob chose instead the path of higher education as his father had done. Like his father, he was drawn by a calling to teach and to contribute to the intellectual growth of others.

In 1968, he joined Central Michigan University (CMU), where he would dedicate the next 39 years of his life. Over the course of his distinguished career, Bob served in numerous roles, including professor of chemistry, department chair, associate dean, interim provost, and dean.

In 1997, during a major university reorganization, he was named the founding dean of the newly established College of Science and Technology, now known as the College of Science and Engineering. In this role, he helped shape the college's identity, expand its research enterprise, and create new opportunities for students and faculty alike. In particular, Bob inspired many of his own students to also pursue degrees in chemistry.

Bob's academic career was distinguished not only by leadership but also by scholarly achievement and innovation. In the 1970s, he became increasingly involved in research and was awarded CMU's first university patent. He rose to the rank of full professor and received numerous honors, including the CMU Centennial Award and multiple teaching awards. In 2014, the university recognized his extraordinary contributions with an honorary Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

Yet for all his accomplishments, those who knew Bob best remember him not for his titles, but for his character. Colleagues consistently described him as a man of remarkable intellect paired with genuine humility and great sense of humor.

Bob's passions extended far beyond the classroom and laboratory. From being an avid golfer, to an avid fisherman, to a bird watcher, fan of the University of Michigan sports, and most importantly a supporter of his grandchildren. As a golfer, he won numerous state high school titles, was a member of the UofM golf team, played golf as much as possible and traveled extensively to many of the major professional golf tournaments with his wife and family. For fishing, his most favorite location to pursue that hobby was on the north shore of Lake Superior, where he visited annually for more than 50 years.

He developed a great love of books depicting the history of American angling, including the waters of the Great Lakes. This led to an additional focus on sporting periodicals as well. Bob eventually developed an extensive catalog of rare books and periodicals, which ended up as the Robert and Cordelia Kohrman Angling endowed collection at CMU's Clarke Historical Library.

He also devoted time and energy to the stewardship of natural spaces, working alongside colleagues at Neithercut Woodland, Veits Woods, and CMU's Biological Station on Beaver Island. His contributions helped enhance these environments for future generations, reflecting his belief in preserving both knowledge and nature.

Those close to Bob often spoke of his joy in life's simple moments. He delighted in watching bluebirds, sharing stories, and bringing people together for gatherings, holidays, and celebrations. Whether at a chili cook-off, on the golf course, or along the shores of Lake Superior, Bob had a gift for creating community and connection.

For nearly fifty years, he led fishing trips to Lake Superior, where his love of angling was matched only by his fascination with the region's history. He immersed himself in the stories of those who came before – early settlers, indigenous communities, and generations of anglers – and generously shared that knowledge with others. His curiosity transformed each trip into both an adventure and a lesson, enriching the lives of all who accompanied him.

Bob also held a deep and abiding love for his English Springer Spaniels over time – Chip, Sadie, Tag, Pepper, Tipper, and Abby. They were constant companions in his daily life, joining him on walks, travels, and even late nights of research at CMU's Brooks Hall. They brought him immeasurable joy, comfort, and companionship, especially at dinnertime!

Besides all these activities, the things that Bob cherished the most were time with his wife and family and especially every moment he had with his five grandchildren. He took his wife on many planned and unplanned adventures as they traveled the world together as well as numerous remote fishing spots. His love for his grandkids was unbounding as well. He provided new adventures and learning opportunities for all of them as they grew. From trips to England, to Alaska, and most importantly to him, he shared his love of the north shore of Lake Superior with them as well.

His legacy as an educator lives on through the countless students he mentored. He believed deeply in engaged learning and took great care to recognize and nurture potential in others. Many former students credit him with shaping their careers and inspiring their lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Dee Kohrman; his daughter, Lela Squire (George); his son, Rob Kohrman (Leslie); his grandchildren, Alex (Emily), Andrew, and Sydney Kohrman, and Patrick and Matthew Squire; his brother, George R. Kohrman; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Joan Addison.

A memorial service celebrating Bob's life was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, April 25, 2026, with visitation at 10:30 AM, followed by the service at 11:30 AM, and a luncheon at 12:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, Bob requested that donations be made to the Friends of Beaver Island Biological Station of CMU or to The Robert E. and Cordelia B. Kohrman Angling Endowment within the Clarke Historical Library.

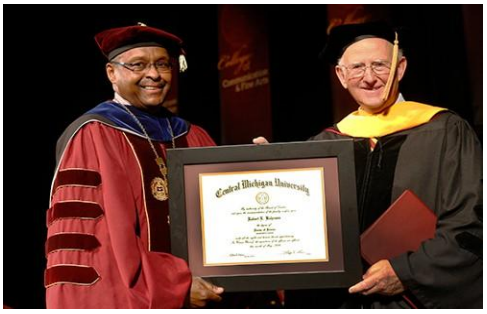
Bob Kohrman's life was one of purpose, curiosity, and generosity. His influence endures not only in the institutions he helped build, but in the lives he touched, the knowledge he shared, and the love he gave so freely.

You may view Bob's obituary online and send a condolence to the family at www.clarkfuneralchapel.com.

Remembering Robert "Bob" Kohrman: Founding Dean, Educator, Mentor, and Friend

Robert Wang, CMU News Media Contact, Central Michigan University

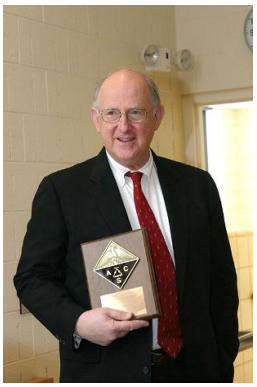
Editor's note: The following article is reprinted, in part, from an online CMU News posting, remembering and paying tribute to long-time CMU chemistry professor and university leader Bob Kohrman. The original article was authored by Robert Wang, CMU News Media Contact, along with members of the Kohrman family, and published on Friday, April 10, 2026.



The College of Science and Engineering at Central Michigan University mourns the passing of Robert "Bob" Kohrman, founding dean of the College of Science and Technology and a longtime faculty member whose impact on generations of students, faculty, and staff continues to shape the university today. Kohrman passed away Sunday, April 5, leaving behind a legacy built over nearly four decades of service, scholarship, and leadership. Kohrman joined CMU in 1968, after earning his doctorate in organic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Though opportunities in industry offered higher salaries, he chose higher education and chose Michigan, drawn by the opportunity to teach in his home state and to contribute to a university experiencing rapid growth and transformation.

Over a 39-year career, Kohrman served in numerous roles across campus, including professor of chemistry, department chair, associate dean, interim provost, and ultimately dean. In 1997, during a university reorganization, he was named dean of the newly formed College of Science and Technology, now known as the College of Science and Engineering, becoming the college's founding dean.

"As the founding Dean of the College of Science and Technology (now the College of Science & Engineering), Dean Kohrman's leadership created new opportunities for our students, created an environment to attract top-notch faculty, and expanded our research enterprise," said Interim Dean Dr. Tracy Galarowicz. "Bob led with curiosity and generosity, inspiring faculty and staff to explore new directions. Bob's influence will be forever felt within the college and at CMU."



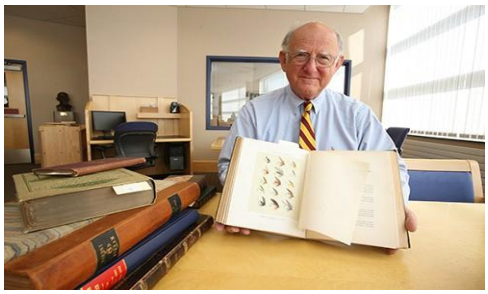
Kohrman's academic career was marked by both scholarly achievement and a commitment to hands-on learning. In the 1970s, he became increasingly involved in research and received CMU's first university patent. He earned promotion to full professor and received university honors including CMU's Centennial Award and a teaching award.

Yet colleagues say titles and awards never defined him. Former Associate Dean Rich St. Andre, in a message shared by CMU staff member Lori Kreiner, remembered him simply: "Bob was a good, good man. We all owe a lot to him."

Kreiner echoed that sentiment, reflecting on Kohrman's deep humanity and the many ways he taught beyond the classroom. "Bob was a good man. He was an educator, a person who not only taught students, but one who shared his stories about his students, family, vacations, and experiences. He educated without even knowing he was educating," she said. "He loved his family and he loved CMU. He dedicated his life to both."

Those who worked with Kohrman often described him as a rare combination of brilliance and humility. Former colleagues frequently referred to him as a "renaissance man," a title earned not only through his scientific accomplishments but through his broad intellectual curiosity and wide-ranging passions.

His office once reflected that spirit: scholarly journals alongside photographs of streams, fish, and quiet landscapes—a nod to his lifelong love of angling and the outdoors. Beyond chemistry, Kohrman had deep interests in history, book collecting, and conservation. He cataloged angling literature at the Clarke Historical Library and contributed historical scholarship for museum exhibits focused on rare angling collections.



He also found joy in working outdoors with colleagues at Neithercut Woodland, Veits Woods, and the Biological Station on Beaver Island, helping to maintain trails and maps for others to enjoy. With regard to the Biological Station on Beaver Island, he worked closely with former Professor Jim Gillingham who oversaw the operations of the station. Professor Gillingham recently recalled, "I never met a professional chemist who possessed a depth of knowledge in history and biology like Bob Kohrman. He

was amazingly conversant in a wide variety of topics ranging from antique apple trees to bygone Coast Guard boathouses. Bob's personal interest in and professional support for CMU's Biological Station on Beaver Island was instrumental in bringing a host of significant improvements to fruition. Among these are Miller's Marsh, the Academic Center, Egbert Farm, and the Boathouse."

Kreiner recalled how his enthusiasm extended to even the smallest moments. "He shared with me his knowledge of bluebirds," she said. "The pure joy that I received watching him light up when the birds would fly to the house and the feeder, as if he was seeing them for the first time."

Kohrman remained deeply connected to campus life beyond academics. He loved homecomings, chili cookoffs, gatherings, golf, fishing, holidays, pumpkin carving, and any opportunity to bring people together.

In describing Bob's love of life and fishing, John Grossa, former CMU professor, close friend, and fishing companion of nearly fifty years, recalled, "For nearly five decades Bob lead fellow fishers on trips to the picturesque northeastern shore of Lake Superior. In early years fishing for Steelhead Trout was our singular focus. As the years passed and interests evolved Bob collected a trove of books, journals, and historical records of Lake Superior lore. Bob learned of 19th and 20th century fishers and other tourists as well as indigenous people and early settlers and shared his knowledge with presentations to local communities. Building relationships with managers and biologists at Lake Superior Provincial Park, Bob would report observations of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons that returned to nest again after a long hiatus. Quite different from the typical tourist, Bob learned about this region, its people and history and shared much with its citizens."

Professor Grossa's remarks capture Bob's deep love of fishing and history, as well as his passion for sharing knowledge, educating others, and enriching the experiences of those around him.

It would be remiss not to recognize his deep and abiding love for his English Springer Spaniels during his time at CMU – Chip, Sadie, Tag, Pepper, Tipper, and Abby. They were far more than companions; they were part of his everyday life and joy, faithfully by his side through it all. Whether accompanying him during late-night research in Brooks Hall, joining him on quiet walks in search of bluebirds, or traveling with him to cherished places like Neithercut, Beaver Island, and Lake Superior, they shared in the rhythm and richness of his life. In return, they gave him unwavering loyalty, comfort, and simple, heartfelt joy – perhaps most enthusiastically expressed around dinnertime!

Besides all of these activities, the things that Bob cherished the most were time with his family and especially every moment he had with his five grandchildren. His love for them was unbounding and he tried to provide new adventures and learning opportunities for all of them as they grew into adults.

Andrew Kohrman, one of the five grandkids (who has a chemistry degree from UofM like his grandfather), remembered his "Grandad" by describing him as one "of his biggest role models. The way he lived and experiences he provided helped shape me to what I am today. I will never forget all the adventures he took us

on, from Alaska to London and especially to the north shores of Lake Superior. All of those times formed precious memories for me. His endless support of education and learning has been inspiring and is a legacy I hope to continue in my field. His guidance and support are an incredible example of what it means to live a meaningful life."

Kohrman himself often said engaged learning, whether through laboratory work, field studies, or internships, was essential to student success. "We believe that students learn better by being engaged in the subject matter," he said during his retirement in 2007.

One of Bob's former CMU students and now *Corporate Vice President of Charles River Laboratories,* Scott Fountain (BS 89), after hearing about Bob's passing, added, "Professor Kohrman (Bob) recognized a student's sudden interest in the instrumentation module of organic chemistry and literally offered me the key to the sequestered GC/MS room in the Chemistry Building, giving me my first job as a chemist. That experience inspired a post-graduate education at the University of Michigan and a lifelong vocation. He was an exceptional teacher and mentor."

"There are many, many more Bob stories," Kreiner said. "He knew how to live, laugh, and love, and I am honored to be a part of his story."

For the College of Science and Engineering, his story remains inseparable from its own. His leadership helped define its foundation, but his kindness, curiosity, and generosity are the qualities that colleagues say endure most.

There was a memorial service for Bob Kohrman at the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, April 25, 2026, with a visitation at 10:30 AM, followed by the service at 11:30 AM, and followed by a luncheon at 12:30 PM. In lieu of flowers and gifts, Bob requested that donations be made to the Friends of Beaver Island Biological Station of CMU or The Robert E. and Cordelia B. Kohrman Angling Endowment at the Clarke Historical Library.

In Memoriam – Bruce Palmer Thill
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: Bruce Thill's obituary notice as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Thursday, May 14, 2026, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Although Bruce discontinued his ACS membership some years ago, he was an ACS member during his career at Dow Chemical Company (1966 to 2000), and he was very active in various Midland Section ACS leadership roles throughout the decade of the 1970s. According to Midland Section ACS Past Historian Wendell Dilling, Bruce Thill served in the following roles: Fall Scientific Meeting Program

Committee, 1971-1972; E.C. Britton Symposium Committee, 1971-1972; Post Advisor for four years of the Chemical Explorers Post of the Boy Scouts of America; candidate for Midland Section Treasurer, 1973; Midland Section Secretary, 1975; Midland Section Chair-Elect, 1976; Midland Section Chair, 1977; approved the Project Catalyst program in the Midland Section (see *The Midland Chemist*, 1977, 14, No. 6 (August), p2); and Midland Section Past Chair, 1978.

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Bruce Palmer Thill passed away at his home on May 8, 2026, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Rose, and his children, Matt (Bernice), Peter (Gabby), Paul (Jill), and Julia (Jason), and 12 grandchildren.

Bruce was born on October 6, 1937, to Monica (Metz) and Francis Thill in Buffalo, NY. He grew up with his 5 siblings in Lancaster, NY, and attended Canisius College. An ROTC member, he enlisted in the United States Army after earning his PhD in Chemistry at Notre Dame University. He served in the Army at Edgewood Arsenal, discharging honorably as a Captain.

Bruce and Rose were married in 1963 and moved to Maryland later that year as Bruce began his military service. They came to Midland in 1966, when Bruce started as a research scientist at Dow Chemical Company. He worked there until retiring in 2000 as a Senior Scientist.

Bruce was an active member of his community and church. He frequently served as eucharistic minister at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and served on the Diocesan Review Board for 16 years. Bruce was one of the original board members for 1016 Recovery Network, at one point serving as its Chair. He mentored youth programs at the church and was a Scout Leader. He enjoyed making science fun for others, leading interactive science education programs at local schools during his retirement.

Bruce loved to spend time with family and friends in the great outdoors. He was on the ski patrol at Pine Haven, and also enjoyed sailing, biking, and hiking. He volunteered his time helping to maintain the Colorado Trail over several summers.

Servanthood was a theme throughout Bruce's life, to his country, profession, community, church, wife and children.

A funeral mass took place at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland on Friday, May 15, at 11:00 AM, and Bruce's family received visitors at the church before the funeral mass from 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Michigan The Parkinson's Foundation or to Blessed Sacrament Parish. To plant trees in memory of Bruce, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Arrangements were made with the Cremation Society of Mid-Michigan. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.cremationsocietymidmi.com.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- 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.
- May 28 (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Lunch & Learn Seminar, MSU St. Andrews, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, Midland. Speaker: Rebecca V. Balaj, Senior Research Specialist, Core R&D, Dow. Topic: *High Throughput Surfactant Characterization for Correlation to Cleaning Efficiency*. Lunch is free, provided by the Midland Section ACS, but **registration is required** to help plan for the lunch. For more information, please see the article on pages 2 and 3 in this newsletter.

- 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 3 to 6 in this newsletter. For any questions, please contact Dr. Robert Bubeck, Research Professor, MSU St. Andrews, at 989-374-9912 or bubeck@msu.edu.
- June 11 (5:00 PM – ??) – Science Café & Bourbon Pull, a Midland Section ACS Project SEED fundraiser event, EverNorth Spirits Company, 1100 Rockwell Drive, Freeland. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Admission ($55 pre-purchase or $65 at the door) includes pizza supper, access to Science Café talk and EverNorth distillery experts, opportunity to purchase a curated bourbon flight during the event, and access to purchase EverNorth products to take home. For more information, and a list of the bourbons/whiskeys, please see the event flyer on page 7 in this newsletter, or visit www.seed.midlandacs.org.
- 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. Also, please see the article and event flyer on page 8 in this newsletter for more information.

- July 24-26, 2026 – NOBCChE Regional Symposium, *ReActivating, ReCharging, and Releasing the Midwest*. Location: Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), Columbus, Ohio. For more information, please see the flyer on page 9 in this newsletter. **Pre-registration is required at NOBCChE Midwest Regional Symposium.**

- 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 15 in this newsletter, or click on **ACS Fall 2026**. Please note: The deadline for abstract submissions was March 30, 2026.

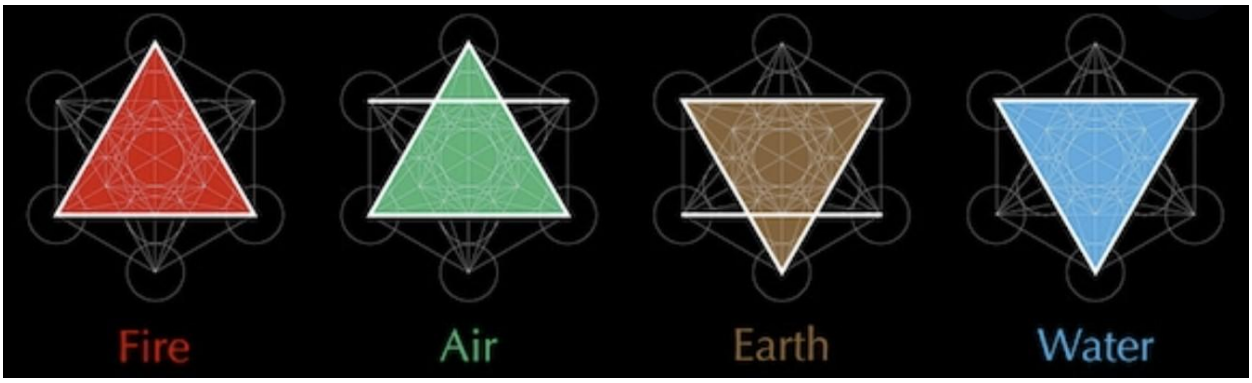
- September 14 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at September 2026 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 247 692 044, Passcode: jJ34ZJ. **Please note: This**

Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.

- October 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.
- October 25-27, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, featuring an exciting scientific program, plenary and public lectures, a science writing workshop, and oral and poster symposia. **Abstract submission is now open through July 20.** For more information, please see the article on pages 16 and 17 in this newsletter, or click on 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting.

- 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 4-7, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting, Memphis, TN, featuring an exceptional scientific program, focused symposia, a historic ACS presential panel, and oral and poster sessions. **Abstract submission is now open through August 3.** For more information, please see the article on pages 17 and 18 in this newsletter, of click on 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting.
- November 14-17, 2026 (Save the Date) – ACS 2026 Central Regional Meting (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.* **Abstract submission for all symposia is now open.** For more information, please see the article on pages 18 to 20 in this newsletter, or click on **Submit an Abstract for 2026 CERM**.

- 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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