

# THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

June 2026, Vol. 63, No. 6

## Contents

Chair Column .....	1
2026 Midland Section Awards Banquet.....	3
Exploring High-Throughput Innovation in the Science of Detergents: ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn.....	5
To Caucus, or Not to Caucus: That is the Question .....	7
Project SEED Mentor Profiles .....	8
2026 Turner J. Alfrey Visiting Professor Lecture Series, June 9 .....	11
Supporting Student Success, One Bourbon Pull at a Time.....	14
Science Café & Bourbon Pull, June 11.....	15
Eighth R,S-Puzzle .....	16
Summer STEAM Activities.....	16
STEAM Stew 2026 – Middle School Summer Camp, June 15-19 .....	17
Midland ACS Attend MI Student Sustainability Day.....	18
H2O Q at the Sustainability Teacher Fellowship Sharing Event.....	19
NOBCChE Midwest Regional Symposium, July 24-26 .....	20
ACS Fall 2026, August 23-27 .....	21
Midwest Regional Meeting, October 25-27 .....	22
Southeastern Regional Meeting, November 4-7 .....	23
2026 ACS CERM – Save the Date, November 14-17.....	24
ACS National Awards for 2026–2027 Nomination .....	26
Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates .....	26

## Chair Column

*Judith Espinoza, Chair, Midland Section ACS*



Dear Readers,

It is official, we are halfway through the year! For many of us, this season has been marked by graduation ceremonies, celebrating meaningful milestones achieved by our younger generations. It is inspiring to witness their potential and the dreams they are working toward. ***Congratulations to the Class of 2026!*** These moments of celebration and achievements also invite us to reflect on the shared responsibility we hold in preparing the next generation of chemists, educators, and science leaders.

As time moves forward, so does our profession. Each generation brings new perspectives on how we learn, teach, and practice chemistry. The way we worked in laboratories 20 years ago is markedly different from how students, educators, and professionals approach it today. This evolution becomes even more apparent when we look beyond our local environment and recognize that safety practices, available resources, and regulatory expectations vary across the globe.

As ACS celebrates its 150th anniversary, the month of June offers an opportunity to reflect on how the chemistry community can keep strengthening safety as a shared value. A value that evolves alongside new technologies, fosters inclusive and supportive learning, and benefits from collaboration across borders. I invite you to watch this month's ACS thematic video: [Lab \(un\)safety 150 years ago vs. where we are today | ACS150](#).

This spirit of learning, service, and shared responsibility is also reflected in the leaders who help guide our Midland Section forward. This month, I am pleased to introduce Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan, the person who first invited me to become involved with the Midland Section ACS. At the time, she was serving as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and today she serves as our 2026 Chair-Elect. Please join me in learning more about her goals and priorities for this year.



It is a privilege to serve the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society as Chair-Elect for 2026. Over the past two years, I had the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, a role that allowed me to engage closely with our members and gain deeper appreciation for the strength and diversity of our community. Being elected Chair-Elect is both an honor and a responsibility. I have been fortunate to work alongside Judith Espinoza, our current Chair, whose leadership and dedication have made this journey especially meaningful. In addition, having both Judith and our immediate Past Chair, Krishnaja Duvvuri, as mentors has greatly enriched my experience and strengthened my commitment to serving our section.

As we continue navigating a dynamic and rapidly evolving scientific landscape, the Midland Section remains committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking community for chemists and chemical professionals.

Throughout this year, in my role as Chair-Elect, I will focus on three key priorities:

1. Strengthening programming and member engagement. I will continue to lead the programming committee, building on our Lunch & Learn series to inspire and engage early- and mid-career scientists. I will also work to increase awareness of volunteer opportunities and actively recruit members to participate in ACS events. In collaboration with other committees and external partners, I aim to introduce fresh scientific content and technical programming that re-energizes our community.
2. Preparing for leadership transition. I will work closely with the current Chair, Judith Espinoza Perez, and Past Chair, Krishnaja Duvvuri, to prioritize responsibilities and learn best practices for the Chair role. I will also support documentation efforts, including event tracking and timely preparation of materials for the annual report, to ensure continuity and organizational effectiveness.
3. Enhancing event promotion and visibility. I will support the development of a broader social media and communications effort, including the formation of a dedicated communications committee. By promoting events both before and after they occur, and by partnering with external organizations and media outlets, we can increase visibility, expand our reach, and deepen engagement across our community.

None of these efforts would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our members and volunteers. Your ideas, participation, and leadership are what shape the direction of our section. I encourage you to stay engaged, attend events, and share your feedback so we can continue to grow and improve together.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities to strengthen our connections, broaden our impact, and support one another as we advance the chemical sciences safely, collaboratively, and with purpose. Thank you for being part of this community. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Raghida “Reggie” Bou Zerdan  
Midland Section ACS Chair-Elect

### **2026 Midland Section Awards Banquet** ***Mark Jones, Director, Midland Section ACS***

The Midland Local Section Awards Banquet for 2026 was held on April 22 at the Great Hall in Midland. Accomplishments of students, educators, and ACS members were celebrated. Andre Argenton, Chief Technology Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer of Dow, Inc., presented the keynote address. Andre gave a stimulating lecture on “How AI can accelerate innovation and sustainability”, prompting a series of challenging questions from the audience.

"This year marks our 35th ACS awards banquet, a tradition that holds a very special place in our community. You can truly feel the excitement shared by our students, awardees, and their families" said Allison Abdilla, co-chair of this year's event. "It is truly rewarding to celebrate the breadth of excellence within the Midland Section of ACS" added Kajari Bera, the other event co-chair. She continued "This event highlights the remarkable work and achievements of our community, from students and professionals to long-tenured ACS members whose contributions continue to advance chemistry and inspire future generations."

Students and teachers are recognized by the largest group of awards. The awardees are drawn from within the recently enlarged boundaries of the Midland Local Section which now includes Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Huron, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, and Tuscola



Andre Argenton, CTO and CSO of Dow, Inc., informs and entertains the audience with his lecture “How AI can accelerate innovation and sustainability”.

counties, in addition to the five counties that originally comprised the Local Section, Isabella, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw, and Bay counties.

Two awardees of National ACS Awards were celebrated. These awards were presented at the recent ACS National Meeting in Atlanta. Tami Sivy of Saginaw Valley State University received Project SEED Mentor of the Year. Project SEED (Summer Research Experience for the Economic Diverse) is an ACS program that provides paid summer research internships for high school students from low-income backgrounds, placing them in university or industry laboratories to work alongside professional scientists. Jacob “Jake” Remacle was awarded the National Chemical Technical Professional Award. Jake is employed by Dow, Inc. The award recognizes excellence and professionalism among technicians, operators, analysts, and other applied chemical technology professionals. Jake joins the ranks of other Midland Local Section awardees that went on to win the national award.



Event co-chairs Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera, shown here as Allison present Kajari with the Outstanding Achievement in Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences, and Engineering Award.

Educators recognized for Outstanding Achievement include Christine Brillhart from Jefferson Middle School in Midland for Middle School Science Teaching and James Winkler of Clare Public Schools for High School Level Chemistry Teaching. Professor Dale LeCaptain of Central Michigan University was recognized for Outstanding College Level Chemistry Teaching. Michael Tulchinsky was recognized as the Science Education Volunteer of the Year.



Dan Dermody receiving the Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences, presented by Wendy Flory.

Students from four local colleges received Outstanding College Chemistry Student Awards. They are, from Alma College, Andrew Benton (Chemistry); from Delta College, Jesse Enriquez (Chemistry); from Central Michigan University, Milah D. Curry (Chemistry), Emma L. Busch (Chemistry), Ashley I. Brown (Biochemistry), and Zachary D. Hager (Biochemistry); and from Saginaw Valley State University, Hannah Stearns (Biochemistry) and Lydia Meredith (Chemistry).

Outstanding High School Chemistry Students recognized are Abigaile Badder (Merrill High School), Alexis Brown (Bay-Arenac Community High School), Benjamin Gottschalk (Beal City High School), Brooklyn Bassett (Frankenmuth High School), Damian Marcinek

(Mt. Pleasant High School), Holli Noelle Trotter (Breckenridge High School), Jensen Clark (Alma High School), Katherina Fuller (Hemlock High School), Kendra Cieszlak (All Saints Catholic), Kylie Barnett (Birch Run High School), Luke Wenzel (Swan Valley High School), Marcos Grzesiak (Dow High School), Marissa Wittkopp (Pinconning Area Schools), Micah Curtiss (Shepherd High School), Taylor Schaefer (Bay City Central High School), and Walker Pendleton (Calvary Baptist Academy).

Certificates of achievement for the annual Chemistry Olympiad competition were given to students Emma Huang and Aidan Johnson of H.H. Dow High School, Allison Thompson and Andrew Herman of Midland High School, Luke Wirsing and Damian Marcinek of Mt. Pleasant High School, and LaVell Carter and Veehan Chokshi of Heritage High School.

Two Dow employees were recognized as Outstanding Chemical Technicians, Eric Marchbanks and Dawn Carsten. Krishnaja Duvvuri of Dow was recognized for Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society. Kajari Bera of Dow received the Outstanding Achievement in Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences, and Engineering Award. The Bettye Washington Greene, named for the first Black Ph.D. woman to be employed in industry, was awarded to Edward K. Nyutu, also of Dow. Dan Dermody was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences. This award recognizes for dedication and service to the chemical profession.

In addition, 50-, 60-, and 70-year members were recognized, as were a number of volunteers. A full list of the awards and recipients can be found at [awards.midlandacs.org](http://awards.midlandacs.org).

The banquet was made possible due to the efforts of the co-chairs, Allison Abdilla and Kajari Bera. They were aided by last year's chairs Wendy Flory and Tami Sivy, and Diana Deese and Mark Jones. Ken Johnson photographed the event. Michael Lowe kindly 3D printed the moon, part of the keynote speaker gift.

## **Exploring High-Throughput Innovation in the Science of Detergents: ACS Midland Section Lunch & Learn**

***Raghida Bou Zerdan, ACS Midland Section, Chair-Elect***

On May 28, 2026, the program committee of the ACS Midland Section hosted a successful Lunch & Learn seminar at MSU St. Andrews, bringing together members from across industry and academia for an engaging discussion on modern approaches to formulation science. The event welcomed both in-person and virtual participants, reflecting the continued interest in accessible, hybrid technical programming within our section.



**Figure 1. Rebecca V. Balaj - L&L Speaker**

The seminar featured Rebecca V. Balaj, Senior Research Specialist in Core R&D at Dow, who presented on “High Throughput Surfactant Characterization for Correlation to Cleaning Efficiency.” Her talk highlighted how high-throughput research (HTR) workflows are transforming the way surfactants are studied and optimized for cleaning applications.

A key focus of the presentation was the use of automated experimental platforms, including robotic liquid handling and imaging systems, to rapidly generate and analyze large datasets on surfactant behavior in oil–water systems. These methods enable the determination of critical parameters such as phase behavior, solubilization, and partitioning characteristics. By quantifying these relationships, researchers can derive intrinsic surfactant properties such as characteristic curvature (CC) and directly correlate them with cleaning performance in formulations.

The ability to systematically screen materials and establish structure–property relationships at scale represents a significant advancement in formulation science. As highlighted in the seminar, these approaches not only accelerate product development but also enable more precise and data-driven decision-making in industrial applications ranging from laundry detergents to advanced coatings and cooling technologies.

Beyond the technical content, the event provided valuable opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange during the lunch session, reinforcing the importance of community engagement within the Midland Section. The mix of early-career professionals, experienced scientists, and students created a dynamic environment for discussion and collaboration.

Rebecca V. Balaj’s background in chemical engineering and chemistry, along with her experience in developing high-throughput methodologies for formulation and colloidal science, brought a unique and impactful perspective to the seminar. Her work exemplifies the intersection of experimentation, automation, and data-driven innovation that is shaping the future of chemical research.

The ACS Midland Section continues to prioritize programming that connects cutting-edge science with practical applications, and this Lunch & Learn series remains a key platform for fostering those connections. We extend our sincere thanks to our speaker, organizers, and attendees for contributing to the success of this event.

We look forward to continuing this momentum with future seminars that inspire learning, collaboration, and innovation across our chemical community.



Figure 2. L&L Speaker Rebecca Balaj (left) and seminar host Allison Abdilla (right)



Figure 3. L&L attendees at MSU St Andrews

### To Caucus, or Not to Caucus: That is the Question

**Wendell L. Dilling, Past Midland Section ACS Councilor, 1976-1996**

The title of this article is the same as the title of the “Comment” written by Mathew (Matt) Grandbois, current vice-chair of the ACS Council Policy Committee (CPC). Matt’s comment appeared in the most recent issue (June, 2026, p 74) of *Chemical and Engineering News*.

The comments by Matt were related to the operation of the councilor caucuses that usually are held at national ACS meetings where councilors can learn about and discuss issues coming before the council. I have attended about 20 of these caucuses and found them to be somewhat useful. Matt’s main issue was that grouping local sections by size rather than by geography, which is what is done now, would be more useful in discussing sections’ problems. I agree with Matt that small local section councilors could probably learn more from other small section councilors than from large section councilors and vice versa for large section councilors.

CPC is the committee that plans and runs the council meetings. The chair of CPC is the Society president. The CPC vice-chair runs the business of CPC and is likely the most important committee chair after the president. Midland’s Dave Young was the CPC vice-chair during part of the 1970s and 1980s.

Matt was an Associate Research Scientist at The Dow Chemical Company starting in 2010. He was a candidate for Midland ACS Section secretary in 2012, and was elected to the position of Section Chair-Elect in 2013 [*The Midland Chemist*, **2013**, 50, No. 11 (November), p 5]. Due to a job change he resigned this position when he moved out of the Midland Section area. Gina Malczewski was then elected to fill the position of Section Chair for 2015.

Chair-Elect (for Midland Section) Matt is shown accepting the 2014 ChemLuminary Award for the Most Outstanding Section [*The Midland Chemist*, **2014**, 51, No. 10 (October), p 1].

The October 2015 issue of *The Midland Chemist*, **2015**, 52, No. 10, p. 4-5, shows two photos which include Matt with several Midland Section and other members. Glad Matt still likes to be seen with Midland Section members after he moved away.



ChemLuminary Poster Session – (back L to R) Dale LeCaptain; Gina Malczewski; Matt Grandbois; Tom Lane (front) Gretchen Kohl, Michelle Rivard, Tina Leaym, Janet Smith, Michelle Cummings (from *The Midland Chemist*, **2015**, 52, No. 10).

## Project SEED Mentor Profiles

**Rowan Katzbaer, Project SEED Committee, Midland Section ACS**

Project SEED (Summer Research Experience for the Economic Diverse) is a national ACS program designed to provide high school students from low-income households with real research experience through spending a summer in a research lab. A central aspect of the program is the mentors that give their time and expertise to guide the students for the summer. The Midland Project SEED program has been lucky to have a wonderful group of mentors supporting the program. Throughout the summer, we will be highlighting these scientists, their journeys in chemistry, and their involvement in Project SEED.



### Tami Sivy

Professor Tami Sivy has not shied away from being a trailblazer. She was drawn to biochemistry for the ability to study chemistry in the real, biological systems of a cell. This led to Tami being one of two biochemistry majors at Calvin College, a new major at the college when she was earning her BS. After graduation, she moved to Chicago where she worked in clinical medical research. However, Tami knew she had more to give. The insight she gained into what she wanted in her career gave her strong direction for obtaining a PhD at the University of Boulder, Colorado. After a post-doc in Portland, Tami returned to Michigan as a professor at SVSU.

For her first four years at SVSU Tami worked to establish a research program. As the only biochemistry lab, there were limited opportunities to leverage the learnings of others in the department or collaborate. Running a research lab with only undergraduate students, who often start college with limited chemistry knowledge, was also an adjustment compared to her postdoctoral work.

Then she was approached by the Department of Environmental Quality (now the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, EGLE). The Department wanted to establish 10 labs around the state to employ rapid DNA amplification methods to measure fecal indicators at public beaches. This new technique would allow information essential to public health to be obtained in four hours, as opposed to overnight with traditional methods. This allows more rapid closures of contaminated beaches and keeps people safe. Motivated by the ability to have real impact on public health, as well as the ability of undergraduate students to conduct research, Tami led her lab into this new area. The research involved careful laboratory methods and compliance with an intimidating book of EPA methods. In fact, the other nine labs that EGLE approached backed out.

Tami works with her students and SEED students to monitor four beaches in Saginaw Bay throughout the summer. The students use a buddy system to collect samples at waist height. They then bring these samples to the laboratory for analysis. The methods have evolved to where Tami can now help EGLE with microbial source tracking. This reveals if the beach contamination comes from livestock run off, septic failure, or other sources.

The research also expanded in scope during the COVID pandemic. Many more labs across the state obtained the equipment needed to perform community-based testing of wastewater to identify non-symptomatic cases. When the pandemic cases and monitoring decreased, the labs then were already set up to monitor water through rapid DNA amplification. There are now 20 labs across the state, housed in university and health departments, that monitor beaches. Tami's is still the only lab that relies completely on undergraduate researchers.

Tami sees the impact of her laboratory on both her students and the SEED students. Many of her students have stayed in contact and those that went on to graduate school were well prepared for the rigors of chemistry research. The research in Tami's laboratory provides a foundation not only in wet chemistry methods, but also statistical analysis and interaction with the wider scientific community through conferences. The SEED students gain similar skills. Coming from lower-income households, these students also are positively impacted by having a summer job, paying for essential things such as driving school, through the SEED stipend.

Tami has established a research program that both protects public health and offers a unique opportunity for students in the Saginaw Bay area. Despite not always having collaborators or a clear path laid out, Tami has built

a career as trailblazing biochemist. It is clear she has inspired her students to be brave in going after their careers as well, giving them the confidence to know they have more to offer.

#### Daniel Henton

Dan Henton, currently a Research Assistant Professor at MSU St. Andrews, places a high value on hands-on chemistry education. His introduction to chemistry was a chemistry demonstration by high school students when he was in elementary school. He was immediately interested. Later, reading his father's college chemistry textbooks deepened his appreciation for the field which was both hands-on and intellectually challenging.

Dan obtained a BS in chemistry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, followed by PhD studies in Organic Chemistry at the Ohio State University. Much of his career was spent at Dow in the Pharmaceuticals Process Research group. He developed processes to make the active ingredients in several marketed drugs, including Allegra. In retirement, Dan transitioned to working for the Michigan Molecular Institute, which was later absorbed by MSU. His current work focuses on contracted projects for new or improved chemical routes to small molecules.

Throughout his career, Dan has found joy in laboratory work, specifically in the many apparatuses he has been able to build to accomplish research goals. These reaction set-ups ranged from a multifunctional potentiostat for electro-organic chemistry in graduate school to a large glass reactor train to conduct water and oxygen free chemistry at Dow. His current work has led him to build high temperature and pressure equipment.

Dan shares this joy of the intellectual and hands-on work with the SEED students. He sees the essential need for young folks to learn laboratory skills in order for all science, and ultimately society, to progress. The surprise of finding something new still exists, despite all the databases of past knowledge. There is no real replacement for the insights students gain from observation. The SEED students work with Dan over the summer to develop reactions and small molecules. He hopes this inspires students to explore new areas of chemistry. Working with Dan lets the students see how a career in chemistry can be both personally fulfilling and beneficial to society and the environment. Many of them have gone on to obtain degrees in science or go directly into a STEM-related career.

## 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. 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. Logan Fenimore

Dr. Fenimore's research interests are listed below:

### 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](mailto: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

## Science Café & Bourbon Pull



Limited Seats!!

EVERNORTH  SPIRITS CO.

Join us for an engaging evening at EverNorth Distillery as we explore the fascinating **science** and rich history behind bourbon making. EverNorth's team will guide you through the **chemistry**, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage that shape every bottle of bourbon.



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Proceeds support the Midland ACS  
Project SEED Program!  
Summer (Research) Experience for  
the Economically Diverse



📅 **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
📍 EverNorth Spirits Co.  
1100 Rockwell Dr, Freeland, MI  
🕒 Doors open: 5:00 PM

**Admission: \$55 pre-purchase or \$65 at the door**

### Your ticket includes:

- **Entry into the Bourbon Raffle (EVERY TICKET WINS!!)**  
**You are guaranteed to win a bottle of bourbon or whiskey**
- Pizza
- Access to the science talk and Q&A with EverNorth experts
- Opportunity to purchase a curated bourbon flight during the event
- Exclusive access to buy EverNorth bottles to take home



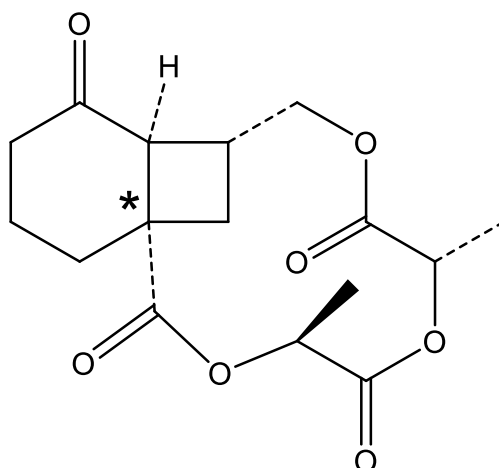
Join the Bourbon Pull!  
Scan to Register!

Whether you're a bourbon enthusiast or just curious about the distilling process, this is a spirited event you won't want to miss!  
For more information on this event and list of bourbons/whiskeys visit [www.seed.midlandacs.org](http://www.seed.midlandacs.org)

## Eighth *R,S*-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Midland Section ACS Councilor, 1976-1996

Here's the eighth *R,S*-Puzzle:



What is the correct absolute configuration designation, *R* or *S*, for the carbon atom indicated by the asterisk. Same rules as before, only one answer per person, first correct answer, *R* or *S*, wins; send answer to [w.dilling@att.net](mailto:w.dilling@att.net).

Overall, since the start of these *R,S*-Puzzles [*The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, 62, No. 6 (June), p 12] if we score this like a track meet (5 points for first place, 3 points for second place, and one point for third place), the score after 7 rounds is: SVSU 20, CMU 8; or 4:1 if we only count winners.

Again, these puzzles are for all ACS members, not just those currently in academic institutions.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com).

# STEAM Stew 2026

## CLEAN AND GREEN: Chemistry and the Environment

### In-Person Summer Camp For 6-8<sup>th</sup> Graders in Fall, 2026

**June 15-19, 2026**  
**HALF DAYS (9-12)**  
**FREE**



TO REGISTER, visit :



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAaBiSzaiCzciH1BGmcKYoW0CgyxDxfjJoVZAJGEIV7zAQLw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

or contact [reginamalczewski@gmail.com](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com)



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

MSU St. Andrews

American Chemical Society

## Midland ACS Attends MI Student Sustainability Day

*Mark Jones, Director, Midland Section ACS*

H2O Q, the classroom water quality testing program developed by Central Michigan University and the Midland Local Section, was an exhibitor at the 2026 Michigan Student Sustainability Summit on May 8, 2026, at the Kellogg Conference Center at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Dale LeCaptain and Mark Jones demonstrated the microplastics module under development to an enthusiastic group of students, educators, and community members. The event is hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

The event welcomed approximately 360 students and educators from 31 different schools across the state. “I received so much positive feedback from students and teachers about all aspects of the event” said Eileen Boekestein, Environmental Education Manager for EGLE. Continuing “it was an amazing learning experience for these students.”

Continued refinement of the microplastic module allows sampling and viewing of both environmental and drinking water microplastics in real-time in the expo. 3D printed equipment allows rapid deployment of compact equipment suitable for use in almost any venue and even by water’s edge.

Consistent with the H2O Q program, middle and high school students are the target audience. The module is designed to fit within a normal class period, a goal that has driven much of the optimization. The demonstration stirred great interest among participants and garnered multiple invitations to other events.



Dale LeCaptain and Mark Jones at the MI Student Sustainability Day demonstrating sampling and viewing of microplastics in environmental samples and drinking water.

## H2O Q at the Sustainability Teacher Fellowship Sharing Event

*Mark Jones, Director, Midland Section ACS*

The Sustainability Teacher Fellowship annual Sharing Event was held on June 11. H2O Q was there informing teachers about microplastics and labs they can do to illustrate environmental microplastics to secondary students. The Sustainability Teacher Fellowship supports K-12 teachers in the Saginaw Bay Watershed in designing and implementing place-based, sustainability education. Educators are drawn from Arenac, Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, or Saginaw counties. The Fellowship is supported by the University of Michigan. In describing the program, Emily Gochis, Sustainability Teacher Fellowship Program Manager, added "Fellows and students succeed thanks to support from community partners and organizations. Collaboration with partners such as Dow, Chippewa Nature Center, and CMU helps keep our program innovative and relevant for students. Regional financial and volunteer support is essential to our ongoing success across the Saginaw Bay Watershed." Teacher fellows are supported through an annual cycle of professional development, connections with community partners, support from pedagogical and content experts, access to sustainability education resources, and biannual stipends and mini-grants. Approximately 70 educators and community partners attended the event held at Delta College Downtown Saginaw. Efforts with microplastics developed as part of the H2O Q program are aligned with the Fellowship's using project-based and place-based learning approaches.



Mark Jones at the 2026 Sustainability Teacher Fellowship annual Sharing Event demonstrating the collection and visualization of microplastics.

"From the beginning, making chemistry relevant to students motivated H2O Q," said Dale LeCaptain, Professor at Central Michigan University and H2O Q Director. "I'm a huge fan of place-based learning that is baked into H2O Q. Incorporation of microplastics sampling brings in something that is in the news almost every day and makes it tangible. The techniques we're using show what is normally invisible. Students aren't learning from abstract textbook examples. They are learning with samples they've collected in their environment, seeing with their own eyes."

The microplastics efforts are resonating with educators from around the state. Attendance at the Sharing Event was prompted by others exposed to the efforts. "Meaghan Gass, of Michigan Sea Grant and a long-time strategic partner of the Sustainability Teacher Fellowship, connected me to Dale and Mark," said Emily Gochis. "I'm grateful for that connection. The water quality testing and microplastics lab they've developed are an excellent fit for educators in our program, offering place-based learning on a timely and important issue that's making headlines today."

Dow was instrumental in starting the Sustainability Teacher Fellowship. There are other programs focused on watersheds across the state, but the Fellowship is the only one supporting the Great Lakes Bay Region. Other sponsors have been added, as have partners to support the efforts. H2O Q is a water monitoring program with a full classroom curriculum developed and created by the Midland Local ACS in 2019 in collaboration with Central Michigan University (CMU). The program has also received additional grants and is supported by CMU. Water test kits are distributed and used by middle and secondary school classrooms to test their local environmental water. Results are then fed into a GIS enabled website for comparison. The program continues to be refined and upgraded, as evidenced by the recent inclusion of microplastics testing. Support of the Midland

Local Section of the ACS ensures innovative programs continue to be developed and shared, enriching the educational experiences of local students.

## NOBCChE Midwest Regional Symposium, July 24-26

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**.




**NOBCChE<sup>®</sup>**  
National Organization for the Professional Advancement  
of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers

**The NOBCChE 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

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](#)

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

ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society



ACS FALL 2026

# Chemists Making History. Be Part of It.

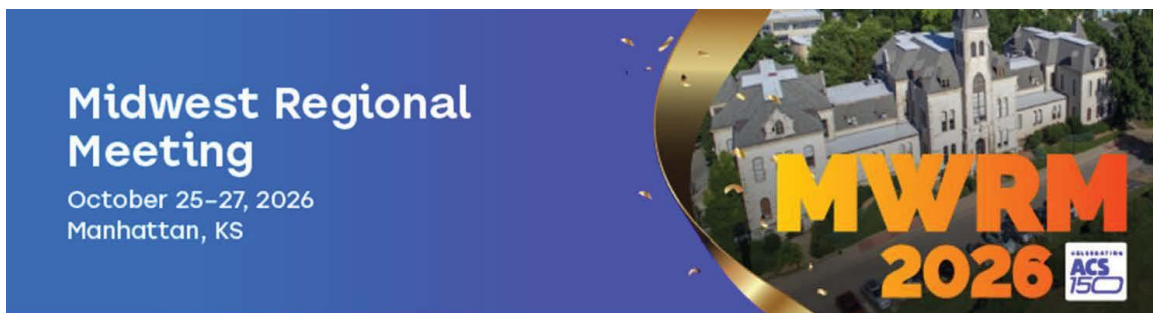
Explore new research, expand your network, and connect with the community driving global innovation.

Chicago, IL & Digital I August 23-27

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

**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](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
- 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.

**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. The deadline to submit an abstract is **Monday, August 10, 2026**.

### [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](#).

#### **Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates**

- 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 11 to 13 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 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, please see the related article and the event flyer on pages 14 and 15 in this newsletter, or visit [www.seed.midlandacs.org](http://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](mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com). Also, please see the article and event flyer on page 17 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 20 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 21 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 22 and 23 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 presentational panel, and oral and poster sessions. **Abstract submission is now open through August 3.** For more information, please see the article on pages 23 and 24 in this newsletter, or click on [2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting](#).
- 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*. **Abstract submission for all symposia is open now through August 10.** For more information, please see the article on pages 24 to 26 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.

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

#### **Volunteer Staff**

Vickie Langer

Editor ([vllanger@dow.com](mailto:vllanger@dow.com))

Steve Keinath

Editor ([skeinath54@charter.net](mailto:skeinath54@charter.net))

Mike Malczewski

Webmaster ([web@midlandacs.org](mailto:web@midlandacs.org))

Please submit all articles and photographs to the editor at [newseditor@midlandacs.org](mailto:newseditor@midlandacs.org). Neither *The Midland Chemist*, nor the Midland Section, nor the American Chemical Society assumes any responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors of or to *The Midland Chemist*.

© Copyright 2026 Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

*The Midland Chemist* is available online with publication notification through an email alert to its readership. If you have any questions or comments about the content of or submissions to *The Midland Chemist*, please contact the editor at [newseditor@midlandacs.org](mailto:newseditor@midlandacs.org).