

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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Contents

Chair Column.....	1
NOBCCHE Midwest Regional Symposium, July 24-26	3
Project SEED Mentor Profiles.....	4
Answer for Eighth R,S-Puzzle.....	6
Two Scientific Meeting Authors Die in Local Plane Crash in 1958	7
Walt and Joanne Rupprecht Celebrate 75 Years of Marriage, Faith, and Travel.....	8
ACS National Awards for 2026–2027 Nomination	10
ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, August 23–27	11
ACS 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM), October 25–27	12
ACS 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS), November 4–7	14
2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2026), November 14–17	15
In Memoriam – Martin Eric Cifuentes	16
Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates.....	17

Chair Column

Judith Espinoza, Chair, Midland Section ACS



Dear Readers,

As we begin the month of July, I find myself reflecting on the many ways that we celebrate. The Fourth of July invites our communities to pause and recognize independence, resilience, and shared purpose. In chemistry, those same values remind us that meaningful progress is rarely achieved alone. It is built through curiosity, collaboration, service, and the collective efforts of individuals to make a positive impact.

This spirit feels especially meaningful during the ACS 150th anniversary year. Since 1876, the ACS has supported and celebrated the people, discoveries, and innovations that have advanced chemistry. In 2026, we are honoring chemistry's transformative contributions to science and society. July's ACS150 theme, **Celebration**, invites us not only to look back with gratitude, but also to recognize the people and partnerships that continue moving our discipline forward.

Here in the Midland Section ACS, we have much to celebrate. Our local section has been selected as a finalist in twelve categories for the 2026 ACS ChemLuminary Awards, recognizing programs and events conducted in

2025, which are listed below. This recognition reflects the creativity, dedication, and sustained service of our volunteers across outreach, safety, sustainability, minority affairs, senior chemists, women chemists, Project SEED, and more. Regardless of the final outcomes to be announced at the ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exhibition in Chicago in August, being recognized among the finalists is already a tremendous honor and a testament to the positive impact our local section continues to make.

Midland Section ACS Named Finalist in 12 ACS ChemLuminary Award Categories

	Award Category	Nominated Event(s)
1	Outstanding Performance Award (Medium Small Local Section)	All
2	Best Event or Activity Organized by, or Benefiting, the Applied Chemical Technology Professional	MMTG Members Advancement Series (Re-engaging CTPs)
3	Best New Senior Chemists Activity within a Local Section	ACS Historical Exhibit at the Bay County Historical Society
4	Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs	D&I Summary of Events
5	Fostering Safety Engagement Across Industry and Academia	YCC Lab Tours Summary
6	MAC Industry Engagement & Outreach	Project SEED Industry Tours Summary
7	Most Creative NCW Celebration Using the Yearly Theme	NCW Summary of Events
8	Most Outstanding Local Section Women Chemists Committee	WCC Summary of Events
9	Outstanding Activity Promoting Research Safety (New Award Category)	CERM Safety Workshop
10	Outstanding Event to Advance a Common Language for Chemistry	Project SEED Tour of The Library of Congress
11	Outstanding Project SEED Program Award	Project SEED Program Summary
12	Outstanding Sustainability Activities	H2O Q Water Testing for Secondary Students

The winners will be announced at the ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exhibition at the McCormick Place Convention Center, in Chicago, IL, on Sunday, August 23. Special thanks to our 2025 Midland Section ACS Chair, Krishnaja Duvvuri, for her leadership in coordinating the background documentation effort, and to each of you for your outstanding volunteer contributions. This recognition reflects the dedication, energy, and teamwork that make our section strong.

As we continue through this ACS 150th anniversary year, I hope that we will take a moment to celebrate one another – mentors, students, educators, industrial chemists, volunteers, and community partners – who make our local section vibrant. Thank you for the many ways you support chemistry and contribute to the success of the local section and our community.

I invite you to enjoy this month's ACS150 video, **Chemistry is ... Celebration**, and to join me in celebrating not only the remarkable legacy we have inherited, but also the future we are building together through our shared passion for science, service, and community.

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



The NOBCChE Midwest Region Presents:

“ReActivating, ReCharging, and Releasing the Midwest”

Regional Symposium | Collaborative Meeting

When: July 24th – 26th, 2026

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



Questions? Contact either:

Dr. Muhammad (mwregion@nobicche.org) or Dr. Muthike (angelarkmuthike@gmail.com)

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

Project SEED Mentor Profiles

Rowan Katzbaer, Project SEED Committee, Midland Section ACS

Project SEED is a National ACS program designed to provide high school students from low-income households with real world research experience through spending a summer in a research lab. A central aspect of the program is the mentors that give of their time and expertise to guide the students for the summer. The Midland Section ACS Project SEED program has been fortunate 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. Check out the [June issue](#) of the *Midland Chemist* for the profiles of Tami Sivy from SVSU and Daniel Henton from MSU St. Andrews. This month we are featuring Edmund Stark from MSU St. Andrews and Anja Mueller from CMU.



Edmund Stark

When Edmund Stark watched the cartoon *Jonny Quest* as a child, it was not the title character, but Jonny's scientist father that captured his attention. Jonny was able to get up to various adventures because his father was too busy inventing everything to notice, which resonated with Edmund and his love of knowledge. Edmund ended up interested in chemistry, often referred to as the "central science" because of the broad knowledge base he was able to study.

Edmund pursued his studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he began to do research in organic chemistry. He was thrilled to learn that if he went on to graduate school, he could be paid to learn. He continued his education at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, earning a PhD in organic chemistry. A job at Dow Chemical brought him to Midland. In his 18-year career at Dow, he had the opportunity to work on many different molecular and polymer syntheses. He loved the hands-on aspect of the work and setting up complex glassware and apparatuses to do his chemistry. He was able to continue similar work at the Michigan Molecular Institute and later MSU St. Andrews. Edmund enjoys being able to pass on the passion for hands-on learning to the students he mentors.

The summer research programs that Edmund leads vary greatly from his work for the rest of the year. While his main research focus at MSU is contract-based organic synthesis, MSU already has many opportunities for students to join a synthetic chemistry research program, and Edmund wants to provide a unique experience for the students. Edmund has used his passion for knowledge to teach himself and provide opportunities for research in projects ranging from astronomy to studying bees at the Dow Gardens.

He found his way to teaching "anything but chemistry" through a chance encounter with the then director of MSU St. Andrews. The director was installing a mural of a galaxy and Edmund struck up a conversation, sharing his passion for astronomy. Edmund ended up establishing very popular astronomy nights, which ran as virtual presentations during COVID. Attendance was often over 100 people. He has also had an impact on many students that have joined him for summer research. The Project SEED students he has mentored have gone on to various universities, and in one case, to work at the Children's Zoo in Saginaw. While he might not have been able to be the scientist of everything, Edmund certainly has a breadth of experience and a passion for knowledge that has let him explore relentlessly.



Anja Mueller

Anja Mueller's career has been defined by moments of change. The first was toward the end of her Diplom (a degree similar to an MS) in Germany. Her program required nine months of research, but this was during the time of Germany's reunification and none of the German labs she could have worked in had funding. Anja also was navigating this challenge with no role models, as women in her family were expected not to pursue a career. She managed to find a lab in the US, at Washington University in St. Louis, which allowed her to complete the research for her degree.

Anja returned to Washington University for a PhD in biology, where she became fascinated by a project that was an interdisciplinary study of the origin of life. However, Anja had to switch to the chemistry PhD program to join this work. While the project did not work out and she ended up with a different advisor, the degree stuck, and she earned a PhD in polymer chemistry.

After graduate school, Anja knew she wanted to be able to both teach and perform research. After four years as a professor at Clarkson University, she joined CMU right at the university's transition from an R3 to an R2 institution, with the demands of teaching and research in flux. Through all the changes, she found CMU's promise to be able to research anything, which had motivated her move, to hold true.

Anja's research has been driven by finding problems to solve. With over 20 current students and numerous collaborators, she is currently working on polymer synthesis for applications such as water treatment and hydrogen fuel cells. The Project SEED students are often eager to learn, and many develop an understanding of the chemistry very quickly. As Anja put it, "No one has told them that organic chemistry is hard, so they are able to learn it." Even though there have been many hard times in her path, Anja was still able to adapt and develop a research program where any student can succeed, even if all they come with is their curiosity and a willingness to learn.



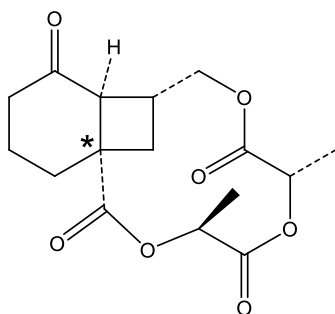
Answer for Eighth *R,S*-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Midland Section ACS Historian, 1997–2023

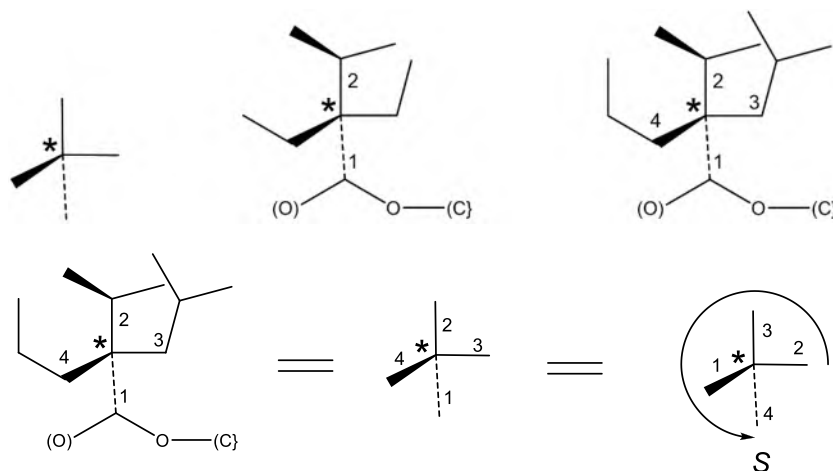
We have two winners, each had the correct answer, *S*, for the eighth *R,S*-Puzzle. The winners are Andrew Chubb, SVSU, and Anja Mueller, CMU.

I have determined that past contests have probably not been conducted fairly. I had assumed that all the emails with the contest structures were received by members at the same time. It turns out that this is not true. These emails are sent in batches, so all members do not receive them at the exact same time. As far as I can determine, they are all received on the same day. Thus, all responses to the quizzes received on the same day but at different times will be treated as if they were received on the same day at the same time. Therefore, the past scores will be adjusted accordingly. Andrew Chubb and Anja Mueller have consistently submitted answers which were 5-6 hours different with the same member's response always received first. If two members tie for first place, both get 5 points in the 5, 3, 1 point system. The corrected overall scores including the present contest are SVSU 25, CMU 15 (or 5:3 counting only first places).

The eighth puzzle [*The Midland Chemist*, **2026**, 63, No. 6 (June), p 16] was to determine the absolute configuration, *R* or *S*, of the carbon atom indicated by the asterisk in the following compound:



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



This month's puzzle marks one year since the start of these *R,S*-Puzzles [*The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, 62, No. 6 (June), p 12].

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

Two Scientific Meeting Authors Die in Local Plane Crash in 1958

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Midland Section ACS Historian, 1997-2023

Two authors of Midland Section ACS Scientific Meeting papers died, along with all other 45 passengers and 3 crew, when Capital Airlines Flight 67 crashed while attempting a landing at Tri-City Airport in severe weather 68 years ago on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958 (Andrick, F., *The Midland Log*, **2024**, Winter/Spring, The Crash of Flight 67, p 1-22).

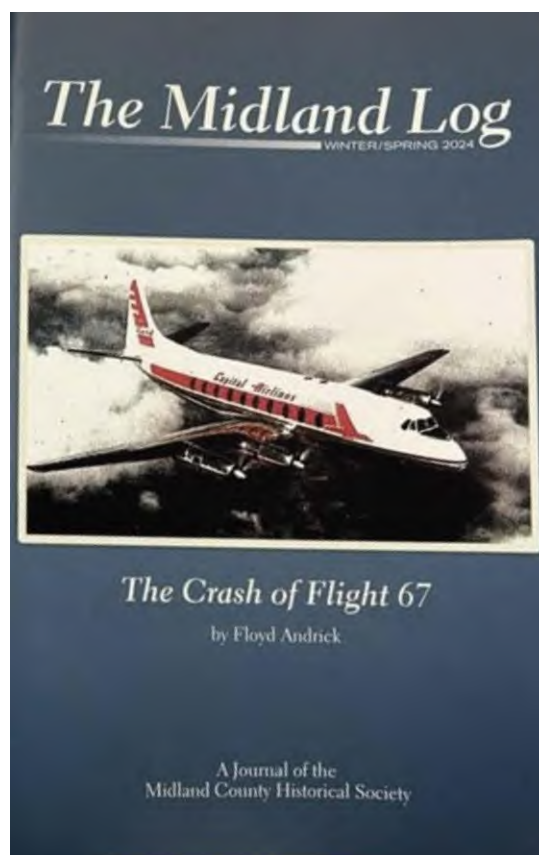
These two authors, Dr. Earl L. Pelton and Ms. Shirley Jean Goetz, were at very different stages in their Dow Chemical Company careers. Dr. Pelton, 64 years old and director of the Strosacker Laboratory, was scheduled to retire in just months. Ms. Goetz, 25 years old and a chemist in the Physical Research Laboratory, had joined Dow just 5 years earlier, in 1953. Dr. Pelton's wife, Grace, was also a passenger on the plane. Shirley Goetz, single, from Bellingham, Washington, was the first woman to be listed as an author of a paper at a Midland Section ACS Scientific Meeting [Dilling, W.L., *The Midland Chemist*, **2019**, 56, No. 1 (January), p 15-21].

Dr. Pelton's paper was on "The Chemistry of Caustic Fusions." His abstract read, "The action of halogens and acids on organic compounds has been studied extensively, but the action of fused caustic alkalis appears only scattered in the literature and is usually ignored by textbooks. This paper is a brief review of the reactions which occur in caustic fusions." Source: ACS Spring Scientific Meeting, *Program and Abstracts of Papers*, April 21, **1951**, Auditorium and Library, The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, Sponsored by The American Chemical Society, Midland Section.

Ms. Goetz's paper, co-authored by Dr. Giffin D. Jones, was on "p-Vinylbenzyltrialkyl Ammonium Salts in Vinyl Polymerization." Her abstract read, "Further work has been carried out on a soluble prototype of the Dow anion exchange resins. Styrene-type polymers with 16-25 mole percent quaternary groups are soluble in aqueous acetone but not in water; however, they form a stable colloid upon dilution of the aqueous acetone solution with water. Light scattering, electron microscope, and viscosity data have been obtained." Source: ACS Twelfth Annual Spring Scientific Meeting (Dow-Dow Corning), April 7, **1956**, Dow Corning Cafeteria, Midland, Michigan.

Both meetings, in 1951 and 1956, were held in the spring and became part of the Fall Scientific Meeting series beginning in 1962, (Dilling, op cit).

In addition to Dr. Pelton and Ms. Goetz, the following people from Dow were also on the fateful plane that crashed: Ms. Jean Hodgson, Mr. Read MacNally, Dr. Glen Parsons, Mr. Lester Wilensky, and Ms. Prudence Windsor (Andrick, op cit).



Cover of the Winter/Spring 2024 issue of *The Midland Log*, courtesy of Floyd Andrick, Midland County Historical Society.

Editor's note: *Midland Chemist* readers may be interested in referring to two additional, well-documented sources, among several, about the tragic crash of Capital Airlines Flight 67 at Tri-City Airport in 1958.

- (1) Floyd Andrick published an extensive retelling of the story of the crash of Flight 67 in the April 6, 2018, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Floyd wrote that article on the 60th anniversary of the fatal crash. Please see the following website reference: <https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/The-crash-of-Flight-67-was-60-years-ago-12811196.php>.
- (2) The nuts-and-bolts particulars of the Capital Airlines crash event in 1958 are also available through a Wikipedia entry. Please see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_Airlines_Flight_67.

Walt and Joanne Rupprecht Celebrate 75 Years of Marriage, Faith, and Travel ***Dan Chalk, Managing Editor, Midland Daily News***

Editor's note: This personal, human-interest story is reprinted, in part, from the Tuesday, June 16, 2026, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Dan Chalk, Managing Editor of the *Midland Daily News*, authored the original article. Walt Rupprecht joined the American Chemical Society in 1958 and as of the time of this writing, he is a 68-year member of the ACS. Well done, Walt – 68 years with the ACS and 75 years with Joanne. Congratulations, Walt and Joanne Rupprecht, on your 75th wedding anniversary!

Every night at bedtime, Walt and Joanne Rupprecht hold hands and say the Lord's Prayer together. It's a simple but profound act that reflects the love the lifelong Midlanders have shared for 75 years. "All I've got to say is, we've been blessed," remarked Walt as he and Joanne sat down for an interview at their residence at Independence Village.

On Saturday, June 16, 1951, Walter Rupprecht and Joanne MacLeod were married at First United Methodist Church in downtown Midland – among the first handful of couples to be married in the then new edifice. "I graduated from the University of Rochester on Tuesday, and on Saturday we were married in Michigan," Joanne said with a smile. "Her mother was very efficient at putting together a wedding," Walt said.

A pastor named Dr. Wilcox married them. Joanne's sister, Vivian, was the maid of honor, and Walt's friend, George King, was the best man. After staying one night at the Bancroft Hotel in downtown Saginaw, the couple spent about a three-day honeymoon at a cottage on Koontz Lake in northwest Indiana that was owned by a relative of Joanne.



Joanne MacLeod and Walt Rupprecht were married on June 16, 1951, at First United Methodist Church in their native Midland. They were among the first handful of couples to be married in the then recently built church. Photo printed in the *Midland Daily News*, courtesy of Walt and Joanne Rupprecht.

Then it was off to work for both of them – Joanne at Dow Chemical and Walt at Dow Corning for the summer. He still had a year left to finish his degree at the University of Michigan before also being hired by Dow Chemical, the company from which both he and Joanne eventually retired.

Walt and Joanne have three children: Erick (Dawn), Holly (Sandie), and Kent (Carol). They have two granddaughters: Emma (Eric) and Molly.

Courtship and Marriage

Both born in 1929, Walt and Joanne attended different elementary schools – he at Second Ward School in Grove Park, and she at Carpenter Street School. The two of them first met in seventh grade at junior high school. “The fellow who was in charge of junior high asked some of us to come in and do things for him on Saturdays,” Joanne explained. “What exactly we did, I don’t remember. And that was how we met.”

Three years later, in 10th grade, they became a couple. The two of them had a lot in common and admired each other’s drive to do well in school. “Friendly and smart,” Joanne said of what stood out to her about her boyfriend. They also shared a love of music, with Joanne playing the clarinet in band and Walt playing the baritone saxophone.

Later, their collegiate studies separated them by a few hundred miles, but it wasn’t long before wedding bells rang for the couple. They had to weather a time apart, though, early in their marriage. Walt was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and served for two years, stationed in Berlin, Germany, when the city was occupied by U.S., British, French and Soviet forces after World War II.

“We tried to write a letter to each other at least every other day,” Walt recalled. The Army also allowed Joanne to visit Walt for five months while he was stationed in Berlin. “I was free to wander and do whatever I wanted, but not go beyond the American sector,” she explained. In addition, Walt received a 30-day furlough from the Army at one point, and he and Joanne used this time to travel around Europe, including England, Ireland, and Scotland.

An Active Life Together

That marked the beginning of another passion that the couple has shared – traveling the world. “That started us out in a trajectory where we visited about 60 countries and all 50 states,” Walt said.

Locally, Joanne has been involved in P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), a group whose mission is to celebrate the advancement of women and to educate and motivate them. She was also a member of the Jaycee Auxiliary, serving as president.

Walt was elected to two, four-year terms on the Midland Public Schools Board of Education and ran unsuccessfully for Midland City Council. He has also been active in politics, serving as chair of the Midland County Republican Party for several years. “I was lucky



Joanne and Walt Rupprecht enjoy a recent visit to Frankenmuth in the spring of 2026. Photo printed in the *Midland Daily News*, courtesy of Walt and Joanne Rupprecht.

enough to shake hands with three presidents and one governor,” he said in reference to presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush and Michigan Gov. William Milliken.

Joanne and Walt have also been active members of their respective churches and have supported each other in that regard. In addition, they share an interest in genealogy, having traced their families back at least six generations.

Anniversary Celebrations

Walt and Joanne had three celebrations for their 75th anniversary. The first took place June 12-14, 2026, with a gathering in Saugatuck with their children and grandchildren and spouses. On their actual wedding day, June 16, the couple celebrated with a luncheon with other residents of Independence Village. Finally, on June 27, 2026, they invited friends from the community at large to a third celebration.



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 \(midlandacs.org\)](https://www.midlandacs.org/newsletter/2026/02/the-midland-chemist-february-2026).

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](https://www.acs.org/awards).

The full list of National ACS awards by title can be found at [Awards by Title - American Chemical Society](https://www.acs.org/awards).

ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, August 23–27

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 Fall 2026 National Meeting & Exposition team on Monday, July 20, 2026.



Join us August 23–27 in Chicago, IL, or participate digitally from anywhere in the world as we bring together the global chemistry community for one of the most dynamic scientific gatherings of the year.

[Register Now – ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society](#)

New at ACS Fall 2026 – Visit the Pharma Zone on the Expo Floor

Explore the science behind today's therapeutics, from small molecules and biologics to advanced drug delivery systems. Connect with pharmaceutical and biotech innovators, CROs, and regulatory leaders, and discover Expo Theater sessions on medicinal chemistry, chemical biology, AI-driven drug design, regulatory science, and industry collaboration.

Participating companies include AiFChem (XtalPi), Ambeed, Benchling, Buchiglas USA, ChemScene, Medicilon, Onepot AI, SOTAX, and Technobis.

Find Your Community at ACS Fall 2026

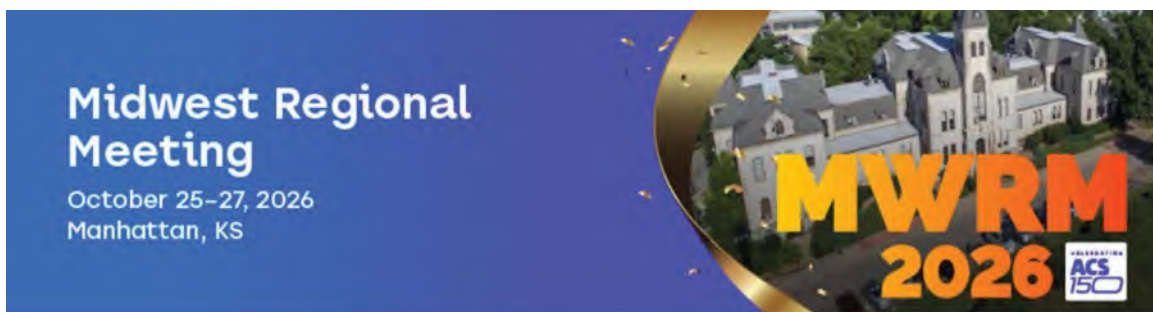
Connect with peers who share your interests through curated community programming featuring sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Explore dedicated programming in [Pharma](#), [Startups](#), [Sustainability](#), and [Data Science & AI](#), covering topics from drug discovery and entrepreneurship to clean energy, advanced materials, and AI-powered research. Whether you're looking to learn, collaborate, or grow your professional network, ACS Fall 2026 offers a community for you.

[Register Now – ACS Fall 2026 – American Chemical Society](#)

ACS 2026 Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM), 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, and another email communication with updated information on July 27, 2026.



Midwest Regional Meeting October 25 - 27, 2025 | Manhattan, KS

The **2026 Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (MWRM)**, hosted at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, will take place October 25–27, 2026, beginning at 2:00 PM on Sunday and concluding at 5:00 PM on Tuesday.

Join researchers, educators, students, and industry professionals from across the Midwest to share discoveries, exchange ideas, and showcase the impact of chemistry across diverse fields. 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 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

Science Leadership Panel and Discussion

Leap into Leadership

Many science professionals, educators, and aspiring leaders find themselves in leadership roles at different stages of their careers. Whether you are a high school teacher, undergraduate or graduate student, postdoctoral scholar, or an early- or mid-career professional, developing leadership skills is essential for success. This interactive workshop will feature a panel discussion with professionals from academia and industry who will share their leadership experiences, insights, and practical advice on navigating and excelling in leadership roles.

Moderator: Dr. Radhika Reddy Nareddy, Graduate Teaching Professor, Kansas State University

Symposia:

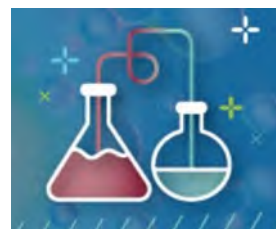
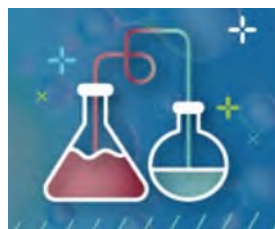
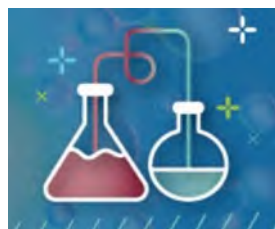
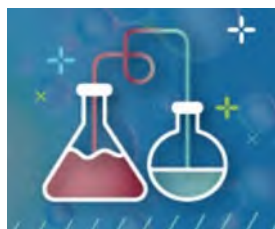
- Advancement in Electrocatalytic Materials
- Recent Progress in Electrochemical Sensing, Energy Storage, and Synthesis
- Advances in Catalysis and Methods for Organic Synthesis
- Synthesis and Applications of Functional Polymeric Materials
- Advances in Molecular Probes for Therapeutics
- Machine Learning 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 now open through July 27, 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](#)

[Register Now for 2026 MWRM](#)



ACS 2026 Southeastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS), 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, and another email communication with updated information on July 17, 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 10, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.**

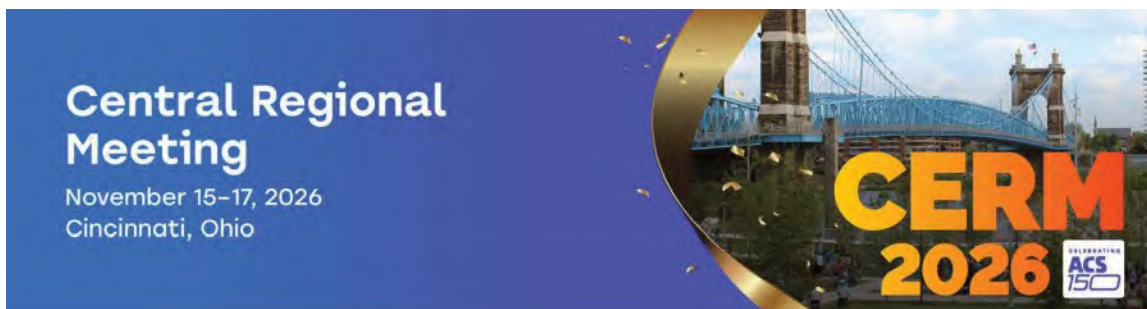
We encourage you to submit your work and join us in Memphis, TN, for an inspiring and memorable scientific gathering.

[Submit an Abstract for 2026 SERMACS](#)

2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2026), November 14–17

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 2026 ACS Central Regional Meeting promotion team on July 8, 2026.



Central Regional Meeting November 15 - 17, 2026 | Cincinnati, Ohio

The **Central Regional Meeting 2026 (CERM 2026)** of the American Chemical Society will be held at the **Northern Kentucky Convention Center** in Covington, KY, from November 14–17, 2026, with technical sessions taking place November 15–17 and short courses on November 14. This year's theme, "**Chemistry Beyond Boundaries: Building Trust, Breaking Myths,**" highlights the critical role of chemistry in addressing global challenges while fostering transparency, collaboration, and trust across disciplines and communities. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and meaningful opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and government.

CERM 2026 welcomes abstract submissions across a broad range of chemistry disciplines, with programming spanning more than 25 technical symposia and a dedicated poster session designed to promote collaboration and scientific exchange. The meeting will feature distinguished plenary and keynote speakers, including **Omar K. Farha** (Northwestern University), **Jie Xu** (University of Chicago), **Mickey Rogers** (U.S. Department of Energy), and **Paul S. Weiss** (UCLA), representing cutting-edge research in sustainability, AI-driven chemistry, science communication, and nanoscience. The awards banquet will feature a talk from **Sam Dinkins** (Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission).

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 CERM 2026](#)



In Memoriam – Martin Eric Cifuentes
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: Martin Cifuentes's obituary notice as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Saturday-Sunday (Weekend), June 27-28, 2026, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Martin joined the American Chemical Society in 1984. He discontinued his membership with the ACS in 2022, at which time he was a 38-year member of the ACS.



Martin Eric Cifuentes, 71, of Midland, died Saturday evening, June 20, 2026, at his home surrounded by family after a courageous battle with lymphoma. He was born October 1, 1954, in Cincinnati, Ohio, son of the late James and Jean (Terwilliger) Cifuentes. Martin was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and had been employed for many years with the Dow Corning Corporation, where he held several patents. He retired after 40 years with Dow and was a member of the Dow Retirees Board. Martin was a member of the "Men of Music," the Versiti Blood Bank, and remained active in his church communities and various sporting leagues over the years.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Cindy; his children, Sarah (Luke) Hitsman, Bridget (Tim) Poley, Ken Cifuentes, Maria Douglas, and Kathleen (Lucas) Eastman; grandchildren, Trey, Audrey, and Sydney Poley; Reagan and Asher Douglas; Jack and Stella Eastman.

He is also survived by his siblings, Greg (Carolyn) Cifuentes, Jim (Renee) Cifuentes, Patrick (Shari) Cifuentes, Mathew (Linda) Cifuentes, Joel (Melissa) Cifuentes, David (Nancy) Cifuentes, Susan Keane, Donna (John) Brown, and Beth Jones; and by many nieces and nephews.

Martin's Funeral Liturgy took place at 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 2, 2026, from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Sanford. Fr. Daniel J. Fox OFM Cap. officiated with Rite of Committal following at the Midland Memorial Gardens.

Martin's family received friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street, Midland, on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, and again at the church on Thursday, July 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM until the time of the Liturgy. A vigil for Martin took place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening at the funeral home.

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Men of Music, or the donor's favorite charity.

All of us at Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home (1200 West Wheeler Street, Midland, MI 48640-2891, Phone: 877-631-2292, www.wswfh.com) are honored that the Cifuentes family has entrusted us with the care of their loved one.



Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- 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 3 in this newsletter. **Pre-registration is required at [NOBCChE Midwest Regional Symposium](#).**
- August 1 (12:00 – 4:00 PM) – Midland Area River Days Festival, downtown Midland near the H Hotel. Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee volunteers will host a booth offering free, hands-on, STEM activities. For more information, any questions, or to volunteer to help, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- 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 11 in this newsletter, or click on [ACS Fall 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 27.** For more information, please see the article on pages 12 and 13 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 10.** For more information, please see the article on page 14 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 now open through August 10.** For more information, please see the article on page 16 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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