

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST



A Publication of the Chemical Society of Washington Section of the American Chemical Society

Record-breaking Summer for Project SEED

*Contributed by Dr. Ajay Mallia, Chair,
CSW-SEED committee*

After winning the ChemLuminary award for Outstanding Project SEED Program, CSW is celebrating 2014 by supporting the highest number (20 students) of economically disadvantaged high school students in its history.

For the past four decades, the ACS Project SEED program has provided opportunities for more than 9000 high school students by allowing them to learn new research skills and expand their career outlooks. Under the Project SEED program, high school students participate in a chemistry-related scientific research project under the direct supervision of a mentor for a period of 8 weeks during the summer at academic, industrial, or governmental institutions. This year 20 high school students (7 SEED-2 (second year) and 13 SEED-1 (first year)) from DC, VA and MD schools were selected to perform summer research at Georgetown University, George Washington University, University of Maryland (College Park and Baltimore County), NIST, and Library of Congress. The names and institutions of the mentors who volunteered to guide these young scientists are below. The CSW Project SEED committee owes a huge debt of gratitude to the tireless work of all these mentors for the success of Project SEED.



CSW Project SEED chair, Dr. Ajay Mallia (left), with the 2014 Project SEED students.

SEED-2 (Second Year) Students

- Dr. Fenella G. France and Dr. Eric Breitung (Library of Congress) mentored Ms. Linhchi Nguyen (Walter Johnson High School)
- Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed (NIST) mentored Ms. Michaela Berger (Rockville High School)
- Professor Zhihong Nie (University of Maryland, College Park) mentored Mr. Sang Ho Jee (Old Mill High School)
- Professor YuYe Tong (Georgetown University) mentored Mr. Richard Castro (High Point High School)
- Professor Travis Holman (Georgetown University) mentored Mr. Joshua Yoo (Old Mill High School)
- Professor Jennifer Swift (Georgetown University) mentored Ms. Hyo Joung Kim (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology)
- Professor Vladislav Sadtschenko (George Washington University) mentored Mr. Ta-Chung Mou (Centennial High School)

SEED-1 (First Year) Students

- Professor Rodrigo Maillard (Georgetown University) mentored Ms. Kaitlyn Marsh of (McKinley Technology High School)
- Professor Richard Weiss (Georgetown University) mentored Mr. Andy Zhang (Wheaton High School)
- Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed (NIST) mentored Mr. Khazar Choudhry (Poolesville High School)
- Professor Nicole LaRonde (University of Maryland, College Park) mentored Ms. Marti Green (Old Mill High School)
- Professor David C. H. Yang (Georgetown University) mentored Mr. Kishawn Love (McKinley Technology High School)
- Professor Hanning Chen (George Washington University) mentored Ms. Breona Jones (McKinley Technology High School)

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September 2014

Special points of interest:

- CSW wins 2 ChemLuminary awards at the San Francisco ACS Meeting (page 6)
- Multiple volunteer opportunities available for National Chemistry Week (page 7)
- Project SEED wraps up another record-breaking summer (pages 1-2)
- The US Chemistry Olympiad team won one gold and three silver medals this summer (page 4)
- CSW remembers John Ruth (page 3)

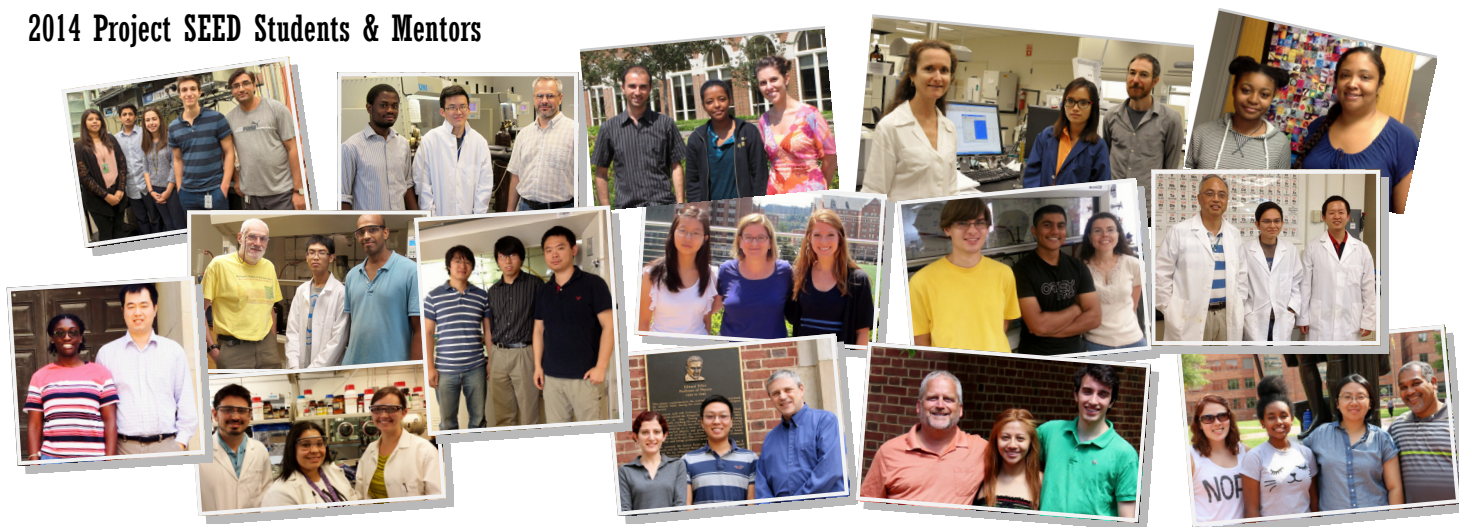
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Project SEED, Continued from Page 1

- Professor Marie-Christine Daniel-Onuta (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) mentored Mr. Hamza Ahmed (Centennial High School)
- Professor Akos Vertes (George Washington University) mentored Mr. Brandon Kim (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology)
- Professor Andrei Vedernikov (University of Maryland, College Park) mentored Mr. Jonathan Lee (Old Mill High School)
- Professor Kaveh Jorabchi (Georgetown University) mentored Ms. Feven Gezahegn (Woodrow Wilson High School)
- Professor Michael Massiah (George Washington University) mentored Ms. Mesgana Dagnachew (Capital City Public Charter School)
- Professor Jeffery Davis (University of Maryland, College Park) mentored Ms. Sindy Rosales (High Point High School)
- Professor Efrain E. Rodriguez (University of Maryland, College Park) mentored Ms. Ariane Chandler (McKinley Technology High School)

2014 Project SEED Students & Mentors



The CSW Project SEED committee organized an orientation event on May 31, 2014 at ACS Headquarters to clearly state the objectives and achievements of Project SEED, as well as to explain the responsibilities and expectations to the new SEED fellows. A range of speakers, including SEED mentors, school teachers, and SEED alumni, presented their own perspectives on Project SEED. Topics discussed included mentoring experiences, lab safety, and tips for success. This program was well attended by the SEED fellows and their family members, school teachers, mentors, and CSW members.

The CSW Project SEED committee would like to recognize and thank the high school teachers who made Project SEED possible: Mr. Carson Wise and Mr. Travis Hartberger of McKinley Technology High School, Dr. Michael Clark of Old Mill High School, Mr. Hadan Kauffman of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Ms. Jacqueline R. Alton of Thomas Wooten High School, Ms. Yuanjun Liu of Centennial High School, Mr. Mei Wang of Walter Johnson High School, Mr. Mark Agnew of Rockville High School, Ms. Marta Walter of High Point High School, Mr. Prasad Girard of Poolesville High School, Ms. Lian McGillen of Capitol City Public Charter School, Ms. Marie Paul of Wheaton High School, and Ms. Leslie Maddox of Woodrow Wilson High School.

Project SEED Needs Your Support!

Project SEED cannot operate without the help from individuals and companies that support the Scientists-in-training. Are you interested in supporting Project SEED? Last year we unfortunately turned away many applicants because of lack of funding. CSW has established the Noel Turner Memorial Fund to help support Project SEED. Your donation will be used for student stipends (\$2500 for the SEED-1 and \$3000 for the SEED-2 program). Your contribution is fully tax deductible. For more information contact the CSW Project SEED chair, Dr. Ajay Mallia (vajaymallia@gmail.com) or CSW (csw@acs.org, 202-659-2650).



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Kathryn Hughes, CSW President; Prof. Andrei Vedernikov (UMD, College Park), mentor; Prof. Akos Vertes (GWU), mentor; Mr. Seong Jang, Project SEED Alumni; Dr. Michael Clark, teacher, Old Mill High School; and Dr. Walter Benson, former Project SEED chair.

Obituary — John Moore Ruth

Contributed by Bhushan Mandava and Regina Cody

John Moore Ruth, Ph.D. was very active in the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) and at the national level of the American Chemical Society (ACS). In the 1960s he was a pioneer in the emerging field of mass spectrometry and its application in organic chemistry. Dr. Ruth passed away at 90 years of age in the early morning of Saturday, June 7, 2014, at Washington Adventist Hospital in Tacoma Park, MD. He was born to the late Thomas Cook Ruth and Lorena Moore Ruth on May 26, 1924 in Chatham County, NC. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. Dr. Ruth spent the early part of his career working on nuclear weapons projects at Oakridge, TN and Los Alamos, NM National Laboratories. Eventually, he settled in College Park, MD working for the U. S. Department of Agriculture Research Station at Beltsville, MD, until his retirement.

Dr. Ruth pioneered the application of mass spectrometry in the analysis of organic compounds before the advent of hyphenated analytical methods, which combine chromatography with mass spectrometry. He operated and refined a high resolution mass spectrometer in the 1960s and assisted and advised in the use of this new analytical technique to scientists not only in USDA laboratories at Beltsville but also others at neighboring universities and federal research laboratories. He was a contributor to several research papers involving the application of mass spectrometry and chromatography for structural elucidation of agricultural chemicals, including insect and plant growth regulators among others. He was a scholar who authored numerous scientific publications in the field of agricultural chemicals.

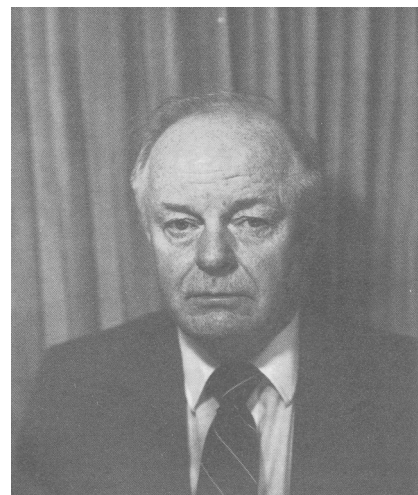
For many years Dr. Ruth actively served the CSW. He was President in 1981 and served as Councilor for more than 25 years. He also served on several CSW Committees. He was a strong advocate for employment protection of chemical professionals and advocated against layoffs in industry and government. While Assistant Editor for *The Capital Chemist*, Dr. Ruth was the first CSW member to speak openly in support of the local area chemists when government laboratories were victims of cutbacks about three decades ago (*The Capital Chemist*, September 1979). He received the Charles Gordon Award in 1985 for his contributions to CSW.

At the national level of ACS, Dr. Ruth joined the movement initiated by Alan Nixon, William Bailey, and Attila Pavlath in the 1970s to transform the ACS to a more member-oriented society. As Dennis Chamot, a close colleague, has summarized this new movement directed at benefiting members; "John was an early and active supporter of the professional movement in ACS that has transformed the ACS from a narrowly focused scientific society into a professional organization that offers a wide range of services to chemists and other chemical professionals throughout their professional lives." Dr. Ruth served on the ACS Committee on Public Relations and on the Committee on Economic Status which has been renamed the Committee on Economic and Professional Activities (CEPA). He was an active member of the Division of Professional Relations (DPR) in its formative years and served as its Chair in 1992. DPR presented him with the Henry Hill Award in 2000 for his

tireless efforts to uplift the professional lives of chemists and chemical engineers. Another important contribution from Dr. Ruth was his active support through the petition process of worthy candidates who were not chosen by the ACS nomination process for national office. He campaigned for the election of petition candidates that included Attila Pavlath, Ann Nalley, and Dianne Schmidt, who were elected to the office of ACS President.

Dr. Ruth was also active in the American Institute of Chemists (AIC) and served on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of its local section known as the District of Columbia Institute of Chemists (DCIC).

Upon hearing of the death of John Ruth, Attila Pavlath said that "John was an exceptional rare human being in every area I can think of: a friend, a scientist, an ACS activist. There are no adequate words to describe the traits of his character, but devotion, diligence, enthusiasm, loyalty, and professionalism come to mind. He will be sorely missed".



Science Coach *noun*

A chemist who partners with an elementary, middle, or high school teacher to enhance students' science education throughout one school year.

Example of SCIENCE COACH:

- ACS donates \$500 to each school where a science coach volunteers.

Enrollment is now open for the 2014-15 academic year.

To learn more, visit www.acs.org/sciencecoaches.



2014 CSW High School Chemistry Olympiad

Contributed by Regina Cody, 2014 Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator

The Chemistry Olympiad is an annual program for high school students that has been organized by the American Chemical Society (ACS) since 1984. The ACS conducts the U.S. High School Chemistry Olympiad through its local sections. The CSW is proud that it has participated in the U. S. Olympiad each year since 1984.

CSW conducts its Chemistry Olympiad in two levels; the first level is the local section examination and the second level is the U.S. national examination in the latter half of April. For the national exam, ACS allotted the CSW nineteen student places to take this exam with the rule that a maximum of two students can be from one school. The Local Section examination purchased from ACS was used to select these 19 students, and we work with the high school chemistry teachers for this purpose. In February, e-mails were sent to teachers asking for the nomination of up to fourteen students to take the local section exam, which is a multiple choice exam of 60 questions. Teachers from twelve high schools nominated a total of 121 students. Nine of the high schools are in Maryland, two are in Virginia, and one private school is in Washington, D.C. The teachers administered the local section exam to their students and returned the answer sheets to the CSW Coordinator, Regina Cody, for grading.

From the results of the local section exam, the 19 students from 10 schools were selected to take the national exam for the CSW, and it was given on April 22nd at the Department of Chemistry of the Catholic University of America. This exam consisted of three separate parts: one written multiple choice, one written essay response, and one laboratory practical. The ACS had a separate grading site to grade the national exam.

The national exam was given in the same time period, April 22-28, across the U.S. to about 1000 students. The 20 students who scored the highest on the national exam were invited by ACS to the study camp, which was held June 3-18 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Janice Ong from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Fairfax County, VA, attended the study camp; Ms. Ong had participated in the national exam in 2013. The U.S. team of four students for the International Chemistry Olympiad was selected from the 20 students at the study camp. The 46th International Chemistry Olympiad was held July 20-29 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The U.S. team performed very well by earning one gold medal and three silver medals.

The nineteen students who took the U. S. national exam for the CSW on April 22nd are listed below along with their teachers and high schools.

| Student | Chemistry | High School | City, State | Student | Teacher | High School | City, State |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Johanna Garfinkel | Xu Duan | Holton – Arms School | Bethesda, MD | Dhruv Shankar | Prasad Gerard | Poolesville High School | Poolesville, MD |
| Ashley Willard | | | | Andy Pilla | | | |
| Gabriel Goldberg | Sacha Place | Landon School | Bethesda, MD | Christopher Zhang | Brendan Mallory | Richard Montgomery High School | Rockville, MD |
| Louis Tanous | | | | Noah Vaughnn | | | |
| Andrew Lee | Pauline M. Owen | Leonardtown High School | Leonardtown, MD | Matthew Barbano | Hadan Kauffman | Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology | Alexandria, VA |
| Virginia Click | | | | Janice Ong | | | |
| Alexander Bourzutschky | Tran Pham | Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program | Silver Spring, MD | Lawrence Harari | Brett Bentley | Thomas S. Wootton High School | Rockville, MD |
| Catherine S. Xue | | | | Jerry Tan | | | |
| Christopher Stubbs | Dr. Lori Kurth | Northwood High School | Silver Spring, MD | Grant Haskins | James Nugent | Winston Churchill High School | Potomac, MD |
| | | | | Hanna Jia | | | |

The CSW thanks very much the individuals below who gave generously of their time and knowledge to make the National Exam day possible.

- At Catholic University, Dr. Greg Brewer, Department of Chemistry Chairman and Ms. Ksenia Loginova, Laboratory Manager.
- Dr. Robert N. Nelson, Retired, who has been the Olympiad Laboratory Coordinator for a number of years, answered questions that arose, helped in the final lab preparations on exam day, and helped proctor the Lab Practical.
- Dr. Elinor Santor, Retired, who helped proctor the written exams and assisted in the breakfast/lunch room.
- Mr. Xu Duan, chemistry teacher at Holton-Arms School, who took care of the breakfast/lunch room.

Younger Chemists Committee News and Events

Contributed by Dr. Ajay Mallia and Dr. Deana Jaber, YCC-Chair

"The Wonders of Water": Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Event

As part of Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) celebrations, the CSW Younger Chemists Committee (CSW-YCC) participated in the Maryland Day celebrations at University of Maryland, College Park on April 26, 2014. The CCED 2014 theme was "The Wonders of Water". CSW-YCC volunteers provided hands-on activities and demonstrations for high school children that explored the unique properties of water that are crucial for life and a cleaner environment. Some of the demonstrations included a water-powered fuel cell car and showing the electrochemical splitting of water. This event was a collaborative event with UMD ACS Students Affiliates.



"How Well Do You Know the World of Chemistry?" A Networking Event

CSW-YCC and the ACS Office of International Activities successfully organized "How Well Do You Know the World of Chemistry?", a networking event held on June 12, 2014 at ACS Headquarters. Ms. Julia Throop from the ACS Office of International Activities gave an overview of the international activities of ACS. Dr. Ajay Mallia from CSW held an interactive discussion on the language of Chemistry, and the origins of many chemistry words from different languages. There was a short quiz, and correct answers were awarded with prizes.

Upcoming events:



September 15, 2014

Younger Chemists Committee/Retired Chemists Group Joint Science Café

Retired Chemists Group Will Meet in October

The Retired Chemists Group of the CSW will have the fall luncheon meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. The speaker will be Jason Schaff, Ph.D., from the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, VA. He will give a presentation on the subject of forensic chemistry. Complete details of the luncheon meeting will be in the October *Capital Chemist*.

A DC Science Café Event... A Chemist's View of Cultural Treasures



Painting involves an alchemy: transforming animal, vegetable or mineral substances into pigments to create images that inspire or delight. Join Barbara Berrie, a chemist at the National Gallery of Art, as she describes how instrumental analyses have been revealing painters as materials innovators as much as they are artists. Using modern laboratory tools, she and colleagues have discovered that painters have modified raw pigments by adding finely ground glass and sands; broadened the range of hues at their disposal for glazing ceramics by adopting metal foils, complex oxides and other ingredients; and brightened their palettes by mixing rare and unusual minerals into their pigment formulae. For the colors in the Virgin's mantle in *Madonna and Child* (1320/30) in the collection of the National Gallery of Art, for example, Berrie's most recent analyses have shown that the Florentine master Giotto (1266-1337) chose an intense bright yellow glass for his yellow and added the rare green-blue mineral mixite ($\text{Cu}_6\text{Bi}(\text{AsO}_4)_3(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$) to the purest azurite. With the tools of their trade, Berrie and other art-minded scientists contribute to the historical narratives underlying our greatest cultural treasures.

Monday, September 15, 2014
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Busboys and Poets, 5th and K St.
NW, Washington, DC
www.busboysandpoets.com/about_5th.php
For info, contact Ivan Amato:
DCScienceCafe@dcswa.org or CSW :
csw@acs.org

This event is free and open to the public by way of a collaboration between DC Science Writers Association and the Chemical Society of Washington. Donations welcome.

CSW Wins Two ChemLuminary Awards

Since 1999, the American Chemical Society has honored the efforts of volunteer members through the ChemLuminary Awards. The awards recognize participants in American Chemical Society Local Sections, Committees, Divisions, and Regional Meetings whose efforts have helped to achieve excellence.

The Chemical Society of Washington was chosen as a finalist for five ACS ChemLuminary Awards at the awards Ceremony dur-

ing the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco on August 12th for several activities and programs from 2013. The poster presentation for the awards is available on the CSW website. The five awards CSW was nominated for were:

- Outstanding Local Section Career Program Award (Large to Very Large)
- Outstanding Sustainability Activities
- Outstanding Leadership Development Program Award

- Outstanding Project SEED Program Award
- Outstanding New Local Section Younger Chemists Committee

We are happy to report that the Section was chosen as the winner for Outstanding Local Section Career Program and for Outstanding Project SEED Program.

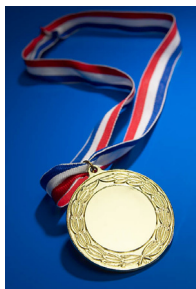
Congratulations to the Section and all of the members who supported the activities and programs associated with these awards.

Ajay Mallia Wins Volunteer Award



Ajay Mallia receiving the E. Ann Nally Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society from ACS Mid-Atlantic Region Chair, Dr. Martha Gilliam Hollomon.

Project SEED Scholarships Awarded



Congratulations to CSW Project SEED students Ms. Linhchi Nguyen and Ms. Ji Whae Choi for winning the 2014-2015 Project SEED College Scholarship Award (a one-year, non-renewable award of up to \$5,000). The awardees will declare a major in chemistry or a chemistry-related field at their University.

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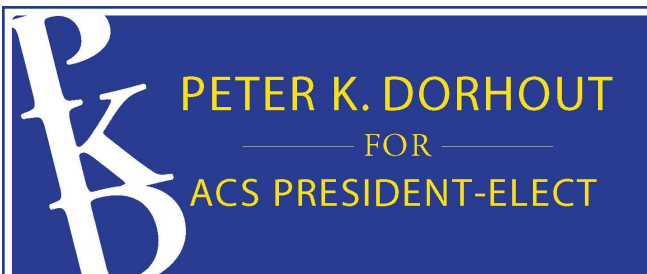
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SCAN TO VISIT MY WEBSITE.

Celebrate National Chemistry Week: "The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy!"

Contributed by Kim Morehouse, NCW Coordinator

Candy...How sweet it is!!! This year, we celebrate the chemistry of candy and confections. We all love a sweet treat, but rarely do we discuss the chemistry involved. Whether it's hard candy, chocolate, or taffy, the sugars and ingredients within undergo a transformation in its properties that result in the delicious treats we enjoy.

Each year the American Chemical Society's (ACS) NCW campaign reaches millions of people with positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to their daily lives. NCW is a community-based annual event that unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. It is the one time during the year that chemists, regardless of background, unite with the common goal of spreading the word that chemistry is good for our economy, our health, and our well-being.

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW), along with the ACS Office of Community Activities, is planning several NCW events. Volunteers are needed for these outreach activities. Mark your calendar now, and plan on joining us at an event, or plan one yourself.

On Saturday, October 18, 2014, The ACS Office of Community Activities will once again be participating in the annual block party at John Eaton Elementary School (3301 Lowell Street, NW) in the Cleveland Park Neighborhood of Washington, DC. The event runs from 11:30am to 4:00pm with setup starting at 10:30am. Volunteers will be assisting with hands on activities for the children who attend and handing out NCW themed publications and "goodies." The two activities that we have planned are "Sour Candy Surprise" and "Floating Letters."

On Sunday, October 28, 2014, CSW will once again be participating in the Family Fun Festival event in Crystal City, Arlington, VA in conjunction with the Marine Corp Marathon, from 9:00am to 2:00pm (setup starting at 8:00am). Volunteers will be performing hands-on activities for the children in attendance and handing out NCW themed publications and "goodies." We will be performing the "Sour Candy Surprise" and "Floating Letters" activities at this event as well. You do not need to be at the event the full time, just let us know what times you would be available to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer for either if these events, please contact the CSW NCW Coordinator, Kim Morehouse, at kim.morehouse@fda.hhs.gov.

You can contribute to the NCW campaign by performing chemical demonstrations at a neighborhood school (or consider having an illustrated poem contest!); conducting hands-on activities with children at museums, malls, or libraries; or writing articles or letters to the editor of your local paper. If you would like to lead an activity at your local school or library, CSW will provide you with some grade-specific materials to hand out to the students, as well as some simple demonstrations that you can use.

More information about local activities will be posted on the CSW web site (www.csw-acs.org) as they become available. For further information, or to volunteer, contact the CSW NCW coordinator, Kim M. Morehouse via e-mail at Kim.Morehouse@FDA.HHS.GOV, or by phone at 240-402-1889 (day) or 301-384-7311 (evening).

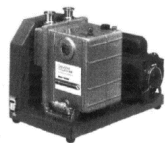


NCW 2014 Illustrated Poem Contest

Each year as part of National Chemistry Week (NCW) activities, the American Chemical Society (ACS) sponsors an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten – 12th grades. Schools are encouraged to have a contest within the school as part of their classroom studies and submit one entry per grade category. CSW will be sponsoring a local NCW Illustrated Poem contest. The National illustrated poem contest is focused on "Where's the Chemistry?" Participants are encouraged to explore topics related to the chemistry of candy and confections such as: physical properties of candy, sugar vs. alternative sweeteners, ingredients in candy and candy making. Write and illustrate a poem using the National Chemistry Week theme, "**The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy!**" Your poem can be in any style as long as it is **no more than 40 words**. All entries must be received by the local NCW coordinator no later than Monday, October 27, 2014. Entries should be mailed to the NCW Coordinator at the CSW office (1155 16th Street, NW, O-218, Washington, DC 20036). Winning entries from each grade category will be forwarded to the ACS for the national competition and will receive a local section award as well. Additional information on the contest, as well as NCW, is available on the ACS web site (www.acs.org/ncw).

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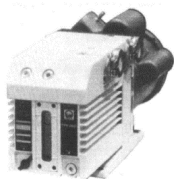
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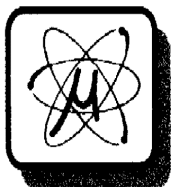
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- Universities & Colleges for teaching positions and laboratory personnel
- Hospitals for technical and research personnel

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- www.mboservices.net
- <http://membership.acs.org/W/WashDC/career.html>



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The Capital Chemist

*A Publication of the Chemical Society
of Washington Section of the American
Chemical Society*

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GENERAL: The Capital Chemist (ISSN 0411-0080) is published monthly from January to December (except June, July, and August) by the Chemical Society of Washington, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Subscription price for an electronic subscription is included in all membership fees; mailed paper subscriptions are \$10.00 per year.

ISSN 0411-0080

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Capital Chemist, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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and Trademark Office

CSW Calendar of Events

September

- 9/15: YCC/RCG Science Café
- 9/18: AIChE Embassy Night
- 9/22: Board of Managers Meeting

October

- 10/18: Project SEED Research Symposium
- 10/18: Cleveland Park Block Party (Volunteer Opportunity)
- 10/19-10/25: National Chemistry Week
- 10/21: Retired Chemists Group Luncheon
- 10/23: Mole Day!
- 10/27: NCW Illustrated Poem Deadline
- 10/28: Family Fun Festival (Volunteer Opportunity)

December

- 12/1: Board of Managers Meeting