

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

Virtual CSW Meeting on March 11

March 11, 2021 - 5:30 - 6:45pm (ET)

5:30 - 5:45 PM: Presentation of the CSW Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award to LaKesha N. Perry

5:45 - 6:45 PM: Presentation by Dr. Matthew Hartings, followed by Q&A

This will be a Zoom meeting. There is no charge to attend, but you must register in advance. Register Now: <https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/join/zoomurl?zJvqOqurD8tGd1TpEaH8f9oxAL3HNQKrlfK>



LaKesha N. Perry

CSW Outreach Volunteer of the Year

The Outreach Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) awards recognize the immeasurable efforts made by ACS local section and international chapter volunteers who conduct outreach and teach the public about chemistry. Each ACS local section and international chapter can recognize one individual annually for demonstrating extraordinary outreach volunteer service.

CSW recognizes LaKesha for her consistent and far-reaching outreach efforts and activities on behalf of CSW. These efforts include her leadership in launching CSW's Committee on Minority Affairs, as well as her leadership at the Pump-Chem Patch Festival and Mad Spooky Science events.

Volume 71, Number 3 March 2021

Inside this issue:

- Join us virtually for the March CSW Meeting
- Attend a Virtual Happy Hour
- Volunteer to judge a virtual science fair
- Learn about this year's CCED theme
- See the highlights from last month's meeting and grad student panel discussion

Dr. Matthew Hartings

Associate Professor of Chemistry
American University

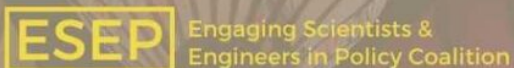
Biography

Matt Hartings is an associate professor of chemistry at American University. He did his PhD at Northwestern with Tom Meade and Mark Ratner, followed by a postdoc at Caltech with Harry Gray. At AU, his research has shifted from purely bioinorganic work to studies of polymer composite materials. The Hartings lab is currently exploring 3D printing as an enabling technique for producing chemically active objects. As you will hear tonight, Matt is also very interested in cooking chemistry. He teaches a class on this topic at AU and wrote a book, *Chemistry in your Kitchen*, in 2016.



Abstract, "The chemistry we learn in the kitchen"

Some of the most complex chemistry we perform does not happen in a laboratory, but in the comfort of our own kitchens. From crafting a perfect caramel sauce, to getting that roasted chicken just right, chemistry informs the way we cook and enjoy our food. My talk will detail some of the "unusual" places I find inspiration for my chemistry and will highlight flavor chemistry, with a special emphasis on making a good cocktail.



COMMITTEE
FOR MINORITY
AFFAIRS

INVITE YOU TO A
**VIRTUAL
SCIENCE POLICY
HAPPY HOUR**

JOIN US ON MARCH 15
THE PARTY STARTS AT 7 PM ET!

REGISTER AT bit.ly/3jZKi6J

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair - March 13-20, 2021 (Virtual Event)

You are invited and encouraged to participate once again this year in the virtual fair. It is a great opportunity to support the science fair and the students who have worked long and hard on their projects.

Below are some key dates/deadlines:

- March 8-12: Project list and abstracts provided.
- March 13-20: Judging period. Links to online video presentations of student projects will be available for all judges by Saturday, March 13th. Judges may view the projects anytime throughout the week, but all winners must be submitted by noon on Saturday, March 20th.
- March 21: Awards Ceremony (live-streamed).

See the brochure for details: https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EDUC_Volunteers-Fx_Co_Reg_sci_fair-3-13-20-2020_brochure.pdf, and visit the FCPS website for additional information: <https://www.fcps.edu/sciencefair>.

Email CSW at csw@acs.org if you wish to volunteer.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week - April 19-24, 2021

Theme: "Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry"

For years, chemists have been promoting a better world through recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry initiatives. To promote the positive role that chemistry plays in the world, ACS established the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) public awareness campaign. During CCEW, ACS members and chemistry enthusiasts celebrate by coordinating



events and communicating the importance of chemistry. ACS will celebrate Earth Day through CCEW 2021 from April 19-24 with the theme, "Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry." Our environmental footprint includes the energy, food, water, and materials we use or leave behind. By reducing our footprint, it means we are living more sustainably. You might wonder why it is important to live sustainably—and there are many reasons. It is probably best described by the expression, "Leave no trace." This means trying to make sure that the planet stays the way we found it, by not consuming or discarding anything that changes how the planet looks or behaves. To live sustainably, we need to reduce our footprint. How can we do that, and how can chemistry help us? This is the basis of this year's CCEW theme.

Earth Day was first officially recognized on April 22, 1970 as a way to demonstrate support for a healthy environment, raise awareness about environmental issues, and remind people that we all need to contribute to a sustainable planet. For years, chemists have been promoting a better world through recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry initiatives. The ACS joined the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2003.

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) will once again participate in Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) activities. However, due to continued global, federal, state, and local governmental directives on social distancing and limitations on gatherings to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACS Committee on Community Activities (CCA) will again encourage the planning of virtual events and the sharing of digital resources for CCEW 2021.

The electronic version of the *Celebrating Chemistry* newsletter for CCEW, as well as additional information about this year's CCEW celebration, is available from the ACS website at www.acs.org/ccew.

CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest - Deadline is Monday, April 25, 2021

As part of the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) activities, the American Chemical Society is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grades. Students are asked to write and illustrate a poem using the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week 2021 theme, "Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry." This year's theme looks at how chemistry protects and affects the planet. Our environmental footprint includes the energy, food, water, and materials we use or leave behind. By reducing our footprint, it means we are living more sustainably. Planet Earth provides humans with the natural resources we need to survive and thrive. Chemistry is the science that has helped us use both renewable and nonrenewable resources to transform our lives. Chemists invent and design many of the materials that make items we use every day, from electronics to medicine. Every day, our actions as humans have impacts on the earth and the environment. Some of these actions are beneficial, while others are not. We can each do our own part to protect the planet by making small changes in our lives, like switching to biodegradable plastics and buying less one-time-use stuff. Your illustrated poem should show some of the ways chemistry is contributing to cleaning our water, reducing waste, and designing sustainable materials.

Detailed rules and guidelines are available on the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week website; <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ccew/plan-an-event/illustrated-poem-contest.html>. All Entries must provide the information that the ACS request via the entry form which is available via the ACS or CSW websites and adhere to the rules set by the ACS. Teachers at schools in the Chemical Society of Washington area are encouraged to have a contest at their school and then submit the winning entries from the school using the ACS online submission forms available on the ACS website (<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ccew/plan-an-event/illustrated-poem-contest.html>). All entries must be received by Monday, April 25, 2021.

Recap of CSW Virtual Meeting, February 24, 2021

The February 24, 2021 CSW meeting featured presentation of the College Chemistry Achievement Awards to ten deserving students. The Awards are presented annually by the Chemical Society of Washington to outstanding seniors majoring in chemistry and biochemistry from each of the area colleges and universities. Each student received a certificate and Amazon Gift Card. The meeting was held virtually, so the student awardees were announced through a PowerPoint presentation showing their name, affiliation, and picture.

Read about the accomplishments of the students receiving awards: https://capitalchemist.org/college_achievement_awardees_feb_2021/

Student Awardees



Ashleigh Bonanno
St. Mary's College of Maryland



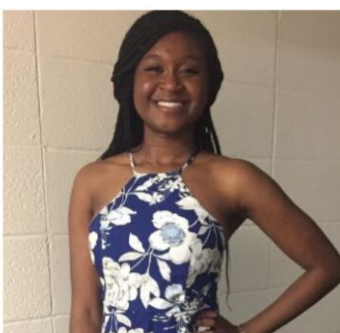
Jonathan Harrison
The Catholic University of America



Sam Kirby
The George Washington University



Wanqing Li
Georgetown University



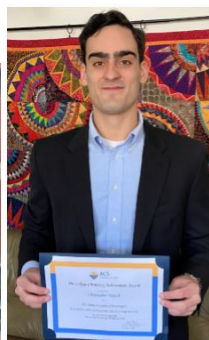
Imani McDonald
American University



Pavan Ravindra
University of Maryland



Jeremy Ridley
Georgetown University



Christopher Veatch
George Mason University



Cecelia Wood
St. Mary's College of Maryland



Shelbi Wuss
American University

The meeting included a presentation on “Lessons from screening 10,000 marine natural product extracts: new structure-function and stereochemical insights” by Carole Bewley. Dr. Bewley is a Senior Investigator and Chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry at the NIDDK, National Institutes of Health. A recording of this portion of the meeting may be viewed here:

https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/rec/share/aYdDyGVpsihUYy02Bu1P09FSWsJgB-zU40ai6POix9TU8seODng2Y3rqE_h-WWNy.8Bxso2jUg-4Mng41

Abstract: Recent work in our group has focused on the discovery of natural products derived from marine invertebrate extracts and drug-resistant environmental bacteria having antimicrobial activity against bacterial and fungal pathogens including Mtb. Rigorous structural characterization of active molecules, and functional studies aimed at target identification using genomics, and biochemical and cellular assays has led to a number of new findings with interesting implications for natural product biosynthesis and biological activities with relevance to marine microbiomes.

Highlights from the Graduate Student Experience: Panel Discussion - February 23, 2021

On February 23rd, many students registered and attended the panel discussion focused on the graduate student experience. The student panel provided a lot of key points and takeaways from the discussion, including, but not limited to; how great graduate school is, but also hard; therapy is common and recommended; imposter syndrome is also common; undergraduate GPAs vary and a low GPA with hard work can still get you into graduate school; try to gain lab experience through internships; and network.

Many thanks to the graduate student panelists:



Nyesa Enakaya- Howard University



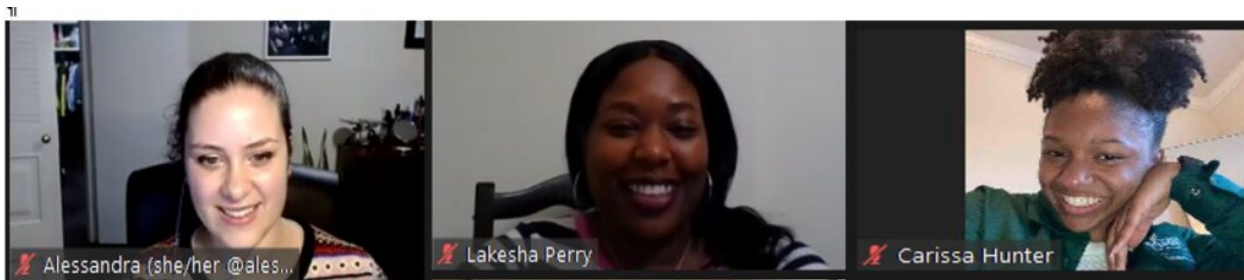
Orlando Stewart- Georgetown University



Patricia Razafindrambinina- University of Maryland



Olufolasade Atoyebi- Howard University



CSW Committee on Minority Affairs Volunteers: Alessandra Zimmermann, LaKesha Perry, and Carissa Hunter

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The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 3,500 members.

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William Hickling

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Reyniak A. Richards

CSW Calendar of Events

March 11: CSW Meeting

March 13-20: Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair

March 15: Virtual Science Policy Happy Hour

March 22: CSW Board of Managers Virtual Meeting

April 19-24: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week

April 25: Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline