

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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



Help Celebrate National Chemistry Week October 15-21



This year chemists across the world will celebrate National Chemistry Week 2023 from October 15–21. The theme this year is “The Healing Power of Chemistry.”

As part of the celebration, CSW will be hosting the ACS Illustrated Poem Contest for students K-12. Students are invited to create poems and illustrations around the theme, “The Healing Power of Chemistry.” Local submissions are judged based on grade categories and local winners advance to the national level where ACS awards cash prizes. To enter, both the poem and an entry form (<https://tinyurl.com/9a3km7td>) need to be submitted to csw@acs.org no later than October 29, 2023, 11:59 pm ET. Poem contest rules and further details can be found on the ACS website: <https://tinyurl.com/2bxkckyv>.

CSW members can also celebrate National Chemistry week by checking out the “Celebrating Chemistry” pamphlet (<https://tinyurl.com/4c72m6va>) published by the American Chemical Society (ACS). The pamphlet focuses on the theme of chemistry in healthcare and is full of information about chemistry, combined with simple and safe activities for students.

Project SEED Happenings

By: Lauren Ragle, President-Elect

This summer has been quite busy for 18 high schoolers in our area. That’s right—we have been running the Project SEED Program this summer! Allison Aldridge and I were the co-coordinators for this year’s Project SEED. Once we had our 18 excellent mentors and their 13 projects approved, it was time to recruit students! We placed and settled 18 students into different types of research, from computational alterations on energy transfer processes to organometallic synthesis and characterization.

On Saturday, August 19th, all the hard work finally culminated in an amazing poster session. The students brought in friends and family for support. Not only did they share work amongst their loved ones, but they spoke with scientists from our section. They were judged to see who had the best poster with the best presentation. The winners were: Makaila Lowe (1st place), Fahamida Rahman (2nd place), and Naomi Stevenson (3rd place).

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Inside this issue:

- National Chemistry Week is October 15-21
- Catch up on this summer’s Project SEED program
- CSW won a ChemLuminary Award!
- Nominate a colleague for the Gustavus John Esselen Award
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- Apply for a Student Travel Award
- Nominate a colleague for the Hillebrand Prize, or for the Schubert or Gordon awards
- Submit a publication to be featured on our website and in our newsletter, and see recent submissions from other members



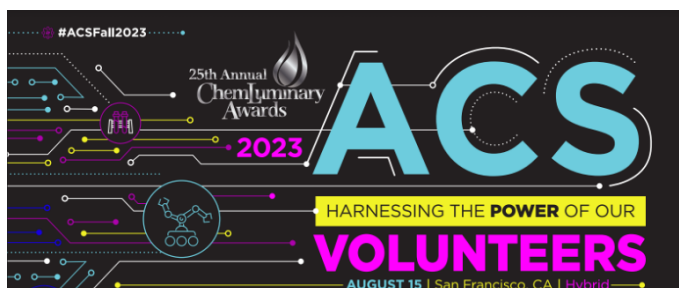
Interested in being a mentor next year? Have a high school student interested in a paid research position next summer? Reach out to Lauren at lragle@gwu.edu and she'll put you on the email list for next year.



25th Annual ChemLuminary Awards: A Report

By: Lauren Ragle, President-Elect

This was my first time experiencing the ChemLuminary Awards in person. I was honored to represent our local section, as we were up for two awards. The first award nomination was for Outstanding Local Section Programming Related to the Promotion of Ethics in Chemistry. The second award nomination was for Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs Committee. We were selected as the winner for the ethics award! I was able to walk across the stage and accept on behalf of our section.



Our poster had lots of visitors who wanted to know a few things, so I thought I'd share some colloquial chuckles:

"Washington? State or DC?"

DC. We actually cover the central part of Maryland and 3 counties in northern Virginia as well.

"Society, not section?"

Well, we were established before we joined ACS (1884 vs. 1893). So, we had the President title and the Society name first.

"There's an HBCU week?"

Oh yes! Our CMA group is one of the most active committees and they did a great job highlighting HBCU alum and sharing their stories on social media.

Not only did we win a ChemLuminary for our ethics programming, but our Virginia section neighbors also brought home two ChemLuminaries! They won for Outstanding Local Section Younger Section Chemists Committee and Most Creative & Innovative Use of the CCEW Theme.

Our own Carissa Hunter was recognized as our section's outstanding member of the year. Each section was able to choose who they wanted to submit for recognition and there was no question in our mind that Carissa was one of our strongest members, always working to make everyone feel welcome and included. Congratulations Carissa!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest - Deadline to Submit is October 13th



NORTHEASTERN SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, INC. THE GUSTAVUS JOHN ESSELEN AWARD COMMITTEE

11 THAXTER STREET
HINGHAM, MA 02043

PHONE (617) 620-8315
EMAIL JPiperGrady@gmail.com

The Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society is pleased to invite nominations of worthy candidates for the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest. This award recognizes a chemist for outstanding achievement in scientific and technical work that contributes to the public well-being. The award consists of a \$5000 prize and a medal of recognition. The presentation takes place at an award ceremony in April at Harvard University, followed by a formal address by the awardee. The tentative date for this ceremony is April 11, 2024.

The award was established in 1987 to honor the memory of Gustavus John Esselen, a distinguished scientist, entrepreneur, and member of the Northeastern Section. The first awardees were F. Sherwood Rowland and Mario J. Molina, who subsequently received the Nobel Prize. Since then, other Esselen Award recipients have also been Nobel awardees and many have been recipients of the most prestigious awards in their various fields.

Please note: any field of chemistry or affiliation is appropriate for nomination. The primary consideration of the committee is that the scientific work has been an important contribution to the public well-being and that the work's significant value to society has become apparent within the last five years or so.

This letter is to seek nominations of colleagues whose work meets the criteria and purpose of the award. The enclosed brochure provides more detail on the nature of the award, a list of previous awardees as well as the criteria and procedure for nominations. Additional information is available at http://www.nesacs.org/awards_esselen.html.

The deadline for nominations is October 13, 2023.

Download Brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/kc4tbzrh>

Councilor Summary From the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco

A summary from Council minutes at the fall ACS 2023 meeting in San Francisco can be viewed here: <https://capitalchemist.org/2023/08/councilor-summary-from-the-ac-s-national-meeting-in-san-francisco/>

Greetings From Sunny San Francisco!

By: Lauren Ragle, President-Elect

While I was interacting with various students at the meeting, for whom it was their first “national” meeting, I realized I had a few tips on things to do at the big meetings.

1. Search for receptions. They’re usually free and involve free food. Also, usually free alcohol (beer / wine) if you’re interested. A tip for the bartender can be appreciated, of course, so perhaps have a few small bills.
2. Pay attention to the Expo information, sometimes vendors give free lunch with their presentations in the Expo theater.
3. Be sure to meander around the various poster sessions (also with free small snacks and non-alcoholic beverages). Sometimes there are nervous students that you can encourage. Who knows, you might find your next collaborator or best friend! My favorite thing to ask at poster sessions: “What’s your favorite part of your project?”
4. Check out affordable (~\$30 or less, often refundable) workshops. They’re bringing in some great speakers and providing some excellent training. I particularly enjoyed “Greening Up Undergraduate Labs” and “Turning Microaggressions into Microinclusions”.
5. Get involved! Different divisions and committees put together amazing programs at these meetings. It’s so hard to attend all the things!



Here’s hoping you can use some of these tips in the upcoming spring meeting in New Orleans, LA (March 17-21). And students, don’t forget, we do offer a student award for travel!

<https://capitalchemist.org/category/awards/student-travel-award/>

CSW Student Travel Award - ACS Spring 2024 Meeting



Applications are now being accepted:

CSW Student Travel Award

ACS Meeting – Spring 2024

New Orleans, Louisiana – March 17-21, 2024

The ACS National Meeting for Spring 2024 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 17-21, 2024. This will be a hybrid event.

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce a student travel award to defray travel and/or registration costs to the Spring 2024 National ACS meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration, travel expenses, airfare, and lodging. Applicants should submit the following by midnight on December 1, 2023 to CSW (csw@acs.org):

- A cover letter stating how and why attending this ACS meeting will promote their career;
- The applicant's CV;
- A letter of recommendation from the student's mentor explaining why the student deserves the award and how this will help their professional development;
- An accepted abstract with proof of acceptance.

View the details on the ACS website: <https://callforabstracts.acs.org/acsspring2024>

Within three weeks of returning from the ACS meeting, the awardees should submit receipts for any or all of the eligible expenses described above, after which the Treasurer of the Chemical Society of Washington will issue a check to each of the awardees.

The award is open to students who are graduate and undergraduate students in the jurisdiction of the Chemical Society of Washington. The award is not intended for post-doctoral fellows. There will be a maximum of four awards available. Each award will be for up to \$1,000 of eligible expenses based on the review of the above materials.

After returning from the conference, awardees will be asked to draft a short (1-page) summary of their experiences for posting to the Capital Chemist website and to present their posters, if applicable, at one of the upcoming CSW dinner meetings.

Call for Nominations for the 2023 William F. Hillebrand Prize - Applications Due November 15, 2023



William Francis Hillebrand
December 12, 1853 – February 7, 1925

American Chemist
ACS President 1906

Nominations are invited for the 2023 Hillebrand Prize, awarded annually for original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW), the local section of the American Chemical Society. The Hillebrand Prize is the most prestigious honor given each year by CSW and is recognized nationally as a mark of significant accomplishment in chemistry. The Hillebrand Prize

originated in 1924 and is named for Dr. William F. Hillebrand (1853- 1925), an internationally-recognized pioneer in analytical chemistry and one of Washington's most distinguished early chemists.

The prize carries an honorarium of \$2000. Many previous Hillebrand Prize recipients have won numerous other national and international awards, including three who have received the Nobel Prize. See the list of previous award winners: <https://tinyurl.com/33aym66u>.

The nominating package should contain the following:

Nominating Letter – limited to 1000 words

The letter should focus on the chemical accomplishments of the nominee, rather than the bio of the nominee, from a broad standpoint, leaving the finer points to those submitting seconding letters. Biographic details (degrees, positions held, major activities etc) will be given in the nominee's CV. The letter should begin with the major theme(s) in the nominee's research career with perhaps a summary of how these evolved over the years to create breakthroughs or push the field in a new or very productive direction.

Describing the nominee's major contribution(s) is extremely important and should be the bulk of the letter.

There is no preference or restriction for the specific area of contribution so long as it represents a significant accomplishment in chemistry. Anything is fair game; synthetic or analytical, experimental or theoretical, bio- or inorganic, etc. This section might detail such things as: the major techniques used in their research and how these were applied to a specific area to bring about significant results not previously achievable; if their research resulted in the development of a new experimental/instrumental technique or use of an existing technique in an innovative new way; how techniques the nominee developed became standard in that area; the impact the nominee's work had on influencing other areas of research; development of new reagents, catalysts or reaction conditions; development of a new computational method or theoretical approach; etc. The nominator should provide evidence in support of these statements. This could include information about the number of citations, impact factors of certain articles (or aggregate numbers), especially influential articles/book chapters, important invited talks, previous awards by other societies, patents, funding, important leadership positions, etc. Mentioning an extremely productive collaboration is possible so long as the role/contributions of the nominee are clear. The award is not given for mentoring students (as a specific criteria) but nominators often mention if this has occurred, especially if these students have gone on to significant positions of their own.

Two Seconding Letters – limited to 500 words each

It is helpful if these be from established experts in the nominee's field, and best if they are from experts at institutions other than the nominee's unless a notable expert in the nominee's area is also from the nominee's institution.

Curriculum Vitae – the candidate must be a member of CSW

The CV should strongly emphasize individual academic backgrounds, appointments, publications, presentations, and patents.

List of Publications

This is critical in determining the specific scientific contribution of the nominee or team.

Proposed Citation – limited to 25 words

This is a brief statement that should be understood by chemists in almost any area. It should avoid highly specialized language but still give the reader the area of accomplishment and why this is a significant accomplishment in chemistry. In some ways it is a one or two sentence abstract of the first paragraph of the nominating letter. Since this is only 25 words, you may simply want to provide 1 or 2 examples of previous awardees.

We strongly recommend that the nominator collect all materials and forward in one email, preferably as PDF files(s), to csw@acs.org. Nominations will be active for three years.

If you would like to verify the eligibility of an individual as a nominee or nominator, please contact the CSW Administrator at csw@acs.org. All materials must be received by November 15, 2023. The awardee will be

announced before the end of the year, and the Prize will be presented at the CSW dinner meeting in March 2024, or on a date mutually agreeable. If you have any questions about the award or the procedure for nominating someone for the award, please contact our office at csw@acs.org.

Call for Nominations for the 2023 Charles L. Gordon Award - Submissions Due November 15, 2023

Named after Charles Gordon for his years of service as managing editor of the *Capital Chemist*, the Charles L. Gordon Memorial Award is given in recognition of exemplary service by a CSW member to the profession of chemistry, to the science of chemistry, and/or to the Chemical Society of Washington. Nominations are invited for this award, consisting of a plaque that will be presented at a spring CSW dinner meeting. A written nomination should include a description of the accomplishments on which the nomination is based. Additional documentation that includes seconding letters and the nominee's CV are welcome.

Completed nominations for the Charles L. Gordon Award are due on or before November 15. The nomination should be submitted electronically to csw@acs.org. Please contact CSW (csw@acs.org) if you have any questions.

Call for Nominations for the 2023 Leo Schubert Memorial Award - Submissions Due November 15, 2023

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Leo Schubert Memorial Award to recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher in the Washington, D.C. area. The award was established in 1979 to honor Dr. Leo Schubert (1916-1978), a chemistry professor at American University who devoted much of his career to developing programs for high school teachers and students. The Schubert award consists of a \$500 honorarium and a certificate, which will be presented at the next spring CSW dinner meeting.

Nominations for the award must be comprehensive in describing the nominee's accomplishments in areas such as innovation in teaching, writing curricula, outside teaching, papers published, involvement in science fairs, and postgraduate study. The application may also include supporting letters, as well as any supporting documents that concisely illuminate the nominee's accomplishments.

To be eligible for the CSW Schubert award, the nominee must currently teach chemistry at a secondary school in the geographic region of the Chemical Society of Washington, which includes metropolitan Washington, D.C. and the neighboring counties in Maryland (Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties) and Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties). The region of CSW also includes six counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland: Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset.

The CSW Schubert Award nomination form is available directly via The Capital Chemist: <https://tinyurl.com/29sa3bau>

Alternatively, a pdf version of the nomination form can be obtained by an email request to csw@acs.org. Completed nomination forms can be sent directly to csw@acs.org. All nominations must be submitted by November 15. Please contact CSW (csw@acs.org) if you have any questions.

CSW Member Publication Submission



CSW Member Publication Submission

We would like to highlight the work of CSW Members' accomplishments in terms of publications, book chapters, op-eds, reports, and presentations at local/national/international meetings. If you have such contributions, please complete the Google form using the link below.

Google Form: <https://forms.gle/zRhFLkRWMdPXoLXNA>

Note that submission does not imply that your work is guaranteed to end up in the newsletter or website. We reserve the right to remove submissions that may be controversial or upsetting to others.

View the full list of submitted publications on the *Capital Chemist* website at <https://capitalchemist.org/2023/01/csw-recent-publications>.

Congratulations to ACS Members celebrating 50, 60 and 70 Years in 2023



CSW 50+ Year Member Appreciation Luncheon

WHEN: Saturday, December 6, 2023
WHERE: Maggiano's Little Italy Tysons Corner
2001 International Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102

The Chemical Society of Washington congratulates the members of the American Chemical Society who have reached their 50th, 60th, and 70th membership anniversary in 2023! It is a pleasure to recognize this milestone and to acknowledge your contributions to the success of the ACS.

View our 2023 Recognized Members: <https://tinyurl.com/natwcu4z>

The Chemical Society of Washington and Senior Chemists committee are pleased to announce that CSW will hold a special luncheon on December 6, 2023, at which we will present an ACS Certificate of Recognition for 50, 60, or 70 years of service. The luncheon will be held at Maggiano's Little Italy Tysons Corner - 2001 International Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Space is limited. Honorees are invited to attend with one guest at no charge. Members and other guests are invited and will be charged \$35 per attendee. Students and High School Teachers may attend at half price (\$18).

View the flyer for additional details: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhvsvuj>

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Capital Chemist Staff

Voice: 202-659-2650

Email: thecapitalchemist@gmail.com

Twitter: @CapitalChemist

Chair, Publications

Sara Orski

Editor, Business Manager

Jessica Catto

Publisher

Chemical Society of Washington

CSW Correspondence

CSW, 1155 16th Street, NW, O-218

Washington, DC 20036

202-659-2650 voice

email: csw@acs.org

www.capitalchemist.org

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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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CSW Calendar of Events

- September 18: CSW Board Meeting
- October 15-21: National Chemistry Week
- October 29: Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline
- November 15: Nomination submissions due for Schubert and Gordon Awards, and Hillebrand Prize
- November 16: CSW Board Meeting
- December 1: Student Travel Award Deadline
- December 6: 50+ year member dinner