

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

CSW Dinner Meeting on April 18th

Meeting Logistics

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. Check-in/Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Speaker Presentation

Location: ACS Headquarters – Marvel Hall / Othmer Hall
1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC

Menu: The meal will be catered by St. Germain Catering and will feature artichoke & pecorino roasted chicken with lemon pan sauce (GF), scalloped potatoes, lentil salad with radish, peas, and mint with a lemon vinaigrette, and assorted cookies. The vegetarian option will be asparagus & spinach fettucine alfredo and must be requested. Beverages will be provided.

Cost: \$30 per person (half price for students)

An RSVP is required for dinner so we can plan appropriate seating and meals.

Register to attend via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/5cw75tj8>

RSVP by noon (ET) Tuesday, April 16, to csw@acs.org. Please provide the names in your party as well as your contact information when you RSVP. The public is invited to attend. You may attend the talk only at no charge, but reservations are appreciated. If you need any further information or would like to make a reservation, please contact the CSW office by email at csw@acs.org

Parking: Parking is available in nearby commercial parking garages. Please be aware that garage closing times vary. Parking is also available on the street after 6:30 pm, but be aware that most parking meters are in effect until 10:00 pm and may be limited to 2 hours. You should check the individual meters for details and payment methods as some are no longer coin-operated.

Metro: Blue/Orange/Silver Line: McPherson Square or Farragut West.
Red Line: Farragut North

Speaker Bio:

Alessandra Zimmermann runs the R&D Budget and Policy Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), where she collects information on federal science spending, both current and past. She has been the Executive Director at Proposal Analytics, performing research into making the research funding space more useful to early career researchers. Prior to switching to science policy work, she earned her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Maryland, and a BS in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University.

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April 2024

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Awards / Opportunities

- Nominations for the Gordon and Schubert awards are open
- Division of Analytics Chemistry YCC Travel Award
- CSW Student Travel Award

Speaker Abstract:

Your lab might be funded from federal grants, but have you ever thought about how NSF or NIH get that money? Why your funding call has a success rate of 12% when the lab down the hall gets to tap into an institute with 25%? Come learn about the forces behind the federal appropriations process and understand all the steps that happen before you even think about pressing submit.

FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING 101 HOW, WHAT, AND WHY



Eat dinner with us* and learn about the federal appropriations process and how funding makes it to the agencies.



Alessandra Zimmermann
R&D Budget and Policy Program, AAAS

6:00 EST April 18, 2024

*in-person dinner does cost \$30, \$15 for students



Register Virtually or In Person (1155 16th St NW, Washington, DC)

Join in Chemists Celebrate Earth Week with CSW April 21-27, 2024



April 21-27, 2024 | #CCEW

www.acs.org/ccew



This year chemists across the world will celebrate Earth Week 2024 from April 21 – 27. The theme this year is “Get a Charge Out of Chemistry”. CSW has three ways you can help us celebrate:

Volunteer with us:

The Chemical Society of Washington will be celebrating Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) 2024 on Sunday, April 21st, between noon and 5 pm at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, during the annual Rockville Science Day event. Rockville Science Day is a community event that annually attracts thousands of

people of all ages. CSW will be collaborating with the STEM Ed Club at Montgomery College to lead chemistry activities and host an exhibit titled, "Get a Charge Out of Chemistry". If you would like to volunteer for this event, please send an email to csw@acs.org to notify the CSW Outreach Committee.

Admission and parking are FREE!

Download the flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/288k8z6x>

Download the campus map: <https://tinyurl.com/37yfruuX>

Questions?

info@rockvillesciencecenter.org

<https://rockvillesciencecenter.org>



Help kids participate in the illustrated poem contest:

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, "Get a Charge Out 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/yy4eyb7s>) need to be submitted to csw@acs.org no later than April 28, 2024, 11:59 pm ET. Poem Contest rules and further details can be found on the ACS website at <https://tinyurl.com/ytte88ka>.

Share educational resources:

CSW members can also celebrate earth week by checking out the *Celebrating Chemistry* pamphlet published by the American Chemical Society (<https://tinyurl.com/y929a8rk>), which focuses on the theme of battery chemistry and is full of information about chemistry, combined with simple and safe activities for students.

CSW 2024 Elections – Nominations Opening in May

The annual election of the Chemical Society of Washington will be held in October/November of 2024, in accordance with the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Section. Nominations for elections will open in May, with details to be provided both on the CSW website and in the May issue of the *Capital Chemist*. This year, the following positions are up for election:

- President-Elect (to serve as President in 2026)
- Treasurer (2-year term)
- 3 Councilors (3-year terms)
- 2 Alternate Councilors (3-year terms)
- 6 Managers-at-Large (2-year terms)



All CSW members are eligible to run for office, although student members may only stand for election as Managers-at-Large. Self-nominations are accepted. CSW's many activities and programs; educational and community outreach, professional networking events, Project SEED, and many others, all depend upon the efforts of active and dedicated Board members. Please consider running for the Board if you want to help maintain these many worthy activities. Or consider recruiting someone who you think would be a valuable addition to the CSW team. Keep your eyes peeled for the opening of nominations in May!

Recordings Available for Past Events

Did you miss one of our recent meetings? Recordings are now available for our two most recent meetings:

- March 14 Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/5zsajbaw>
- March 21 Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/5dtvyxkx>

Award Dinner Summary

by Lauren Ragle

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, we had one of our largest dinner meetings in years! We had 50 attendees, many of whom were not regularly attending dinner meetings. The 2023 Hillebrand prize awardee Chris Cahill, shown with his award on the right, brought his family and at least half of the chemistry students at GW—or so it seemed! His talk about the importance of understanding the activity of actinides was so engaging that even the non-scientists in the room could follow some of the story. While I may be biased towards carbon, I now have more respect for uranium and friends.

The recording is available (<https://tinyurl.com/5zsajbaw>) for those who were unable to attend, and I strongly recommend it for scientists of all ages. Appreciating where we've come from as a nation at war and what to do with waste as we move into peaceful applications was truly a powerful message.

As this is our big award dinner, we also recognized the hard work that Allison Aldridge, shown with me in the photo to the right, has done over the past several years with CSW. She recruited me back in 2017 when I was new to the area and trying to make friends. As she plans for a successful 2025 Fall ACS Meeting, Allison has already recruited many more helping hands. Our largest Project SEED was last year with some 20+ high school students getting paid research projects over the summer—and that was mostly due to my co-chair, Allison. I look forward to her turn as president in 2025 and I hope to be just like her one day.

Speaking of awards, our local colleges nominated students who were outstanding in their departments (<https://tinyurl.com/2s4zz4ts>). I was blessed to speak to several of them before and after the seminar and hear some of their upcoming goals. I am proud of this up-and-coming generation of scientists who will be the leaders of tomorrow. From already contributing to published works to moving into a forensic chemistry position, these students have wonderful futures in store, and I look forward to watching them continue to grow.



Call for Nominations for the 2024 Leo Schubert Memorial Award - Submissions Due November 15, 2024

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.

Download form: <https://tinyurl.com/29sa3bau>

Completed nomination forms can be sent directly to csw@acs.org. All nominations must be submitted by November 15th. Please contact CSW (csw@acs.org) if you have any questions.

Call for Nominations for the 2024 Charles L. Gordon Award - Submissions Due November 15, 2024

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.

Committee on Chemists with Disabilities Update

by Lauren Ragle

I bring you greetings from New Orleans! "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" ("Let the good times roll!")

The Committee has accomplished several things on our strategic plan, trying to keep to our mission of "Making Chemistry Accessible to All". If you'd like, we have t-shirts with tactile Braille for sale, free stickers, and free silicon wristbands. If interested in spreading the message of accessibility in chemistry, I'm happy to make connections to the folks who have the fun stuff. Unfortunately, the ACS Store did not sell our shirt at the New Orleans Expo, so we are pushing to get it back into the store for Denver. But again, if you'd like one, I'm more than happy to make connections.

If you're involved in chemistry education, I want to recommend you check out our publication, "Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities." There are a lot of tips in there that can help you design an accessible, inclusive environment. <https://acscwd.org/TCSWD.html>

I want to note that we sponsor travel to ACS meetings for students with disabilities. We also sponsor a ChemLuminary Award that CSW might want to consider as we plan for the rest of the year. As a CWD committee member, I would be more than happy to work with any of you on brainstorming how to make chemistry more accessible—at the CSW level, school level, or even classroom level. I also have a talk that I do regarding tips on inclusivity and striving towards truly accessible science. If you have any questions or want to make the committee aware of anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Lauren Ragle, at lragle@gwu.edu.

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions - Spring 2024

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting held on March 20, and the Board of Directors meetings held on March 15 – 17, 2024.

View Document: <https://tinyurl.com/37p9yvsj>

Project SEED 2024 Update from Lauren Ragle and Allison Aldridge

We had 6 projects submitted for a total of ~10 student positions. To fill these positions, I (Lauren) had intended to post our flyer around my campus in Ashburn, VA and visit area community centers and possibly libraries. However, we have already had 24 students apply to our program, with some of them returning scholars from last year. We are blessed to have a strong interest in the program this year!

Recruitment for the future now will turn towards recruiting more amazing mentors. Dr. Chris Cahill, our 2023 Hillebrand Awardee, has encouraged his department at George Washington to consider applying in the next cycle. Dear reader, I recommend you do the same in early 2025. If you know of someone doing fun chemistry-related research, I'd love to send fully funded students your way in 2025!

As a fun reminder, the Fall ACS meeting will be in Washington, DC again in 2025. Therefore, we will want to have a strong showing of local student scientists – from Project SEED, the NSF REU program, etc.

If you are interested in participating in Project SEED events, please save these dates:

- Saturday, June 15, 11am – 1pm: Welcome to Project SEED
- Saturday, July 6, 11am – 1pm: Career Panel
- Saturday, August 3, 11am – 1pm: Scientific Writing Workshop
- Saturday, August 24, 11am – 1pm: Poster Presentations (Open to Public, board members might be called upon to be poster judges, let Lauren know if you're interested)

Applications due June 1, 2024, for CSW Student Travel Award

The ACS National Meeting for Fall 2024 will be held in Denver, Colorado, on August 18-22, 2024.

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

- A cover letter stating how and why attending this ACS meeting will promote his/her 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 his/her professional development;
- An accepted abstract with proof of acceptance.

View the abstract details on the ACS website: <https://tinyurl.com/mpd96nb5>

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.

ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry is offering travel awards for Younger Chemists (under age 35) to travel to a meeting to present the results of their research. Individuals who may not have previously been able to participate in professional meetings are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications are due Nov 1st for winter and spring meetings and May 1st for summer and fall meetings. More information is available on the Division website at <https://acsanalytical.org/ycctravel/>. The application forms will be available when the application period is open.

2024 Board Meeting Calendar

CSW's Board of Managers (BOM) meets quarterly to discuss CSW business and to have open floor discussion of new business. This includes all officers and reports of committee chairs. Meetings are open to CSW membership. Dates of the remaining board meetings for 2024 are as follows:

- Monday, May 20, 2024
- Monday, September 16, 2024
- Thursday, November 21, 2024

Our meetings are always from 7pm - 9pm and are hybrid (both in-person at the ACS headquarters and on Zoom). To attend, please email csw@acs.org one week prior to the meeting to be put on the visitor registration for ACS Marvel Hall or to request a Zoom link if attending virtually.

The Capital Chemist

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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.

2024 Officers

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Lauren Ragle

President-elect

Allison Aldridge

Immediate Past President

Alessandra Zimmermann

Secretary

Lee Nagao

Treasurer

Reyniak A. Richards

CSW Calendar of Events

- April 18: CSW Dinner Meeting
- April 21 – 27: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week
- April 21: Rockville Science Day
- April 28: Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline
- May 1: YCC Travel Award Deadline
- May 20: CSW Board Meeting
- June 1: CSW Travel Award Deadline
- June 15, 11-1 – Welcome to Project SEED
- July 6, 11-1 – Career Panel
- August 3, 11-1 – Scientific Writing Workshop
- August 24, 11-1 – Poster Presentations (Open to Public, board members might be called upon to be poster judges, let Lauren know if you're interested)
- September 16: CSW Board Meeting
- November 21: CSW Board Meeting