

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

CSW Dinner Meeting - September 19, 2024, "Reflections on a Non-Traditional Path to a Career in Chemical Security"

Meeting Logistics

Date: Thursday, September 19, 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
1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC

This will be a Hybrid Meeting. Zoom Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/bddcfszb>

Menu: Meal will be catered by W. Millar & Co. and will feature Mykonos mixed grill (lemon chicken, lemon-oregano marinated steak, falafel bites (vegan)), salad, bread board, and assorted bar desserts. Beverages will be provided.

Cost: \$22 per person (half price for students)

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

RSVP by noon (ET) Tuesday, September 17, 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 p.m., but be aware that most parking meters are in effect until 10:00 p.m. 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

Bio: Curtis P. Martin, Senior Chemist, Noblis, Inc.

Curtis, while earning degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering, has a broad background in a variety of STEM fields: Since graduate school, he's been employed in the fields of data science, experimental biology, scientific automation, and now serves as a chemist for Noblis ESI, specifically on a contract with the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office within the Department of Homeland Security. When he's not working, he's spending his time traveling with his wife, lifting weights in the garage, or reading a book—mostly history, though not exclusively. Curtis also serves as the Vice Chair for the National Capital Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and is a Visiting Scholar at Purdue University.

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September 2024

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- Join us for the September Dinner Meeting
- 2024 Board Meeting Dates

Section News

- See photos from the recent CMA event
- Read the councilor talking points from the latest ACS Board of Directors meeting
- Learn about the winners of the Illustrated Poem Contest, and view photos from Rockville Science Day

Awards / Opportunities

- Nominations for the Hillebrand Prize and Gordon and Schubert awards are open
- Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

Abstract

In this presentation, I'll discuss the winding road I've travelled on the way to finding a career I'm passionate about. I'll try to use my experience to provide current students tips for finding their way professionally. In doing so, I also hope to highlight the uniqueness of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area for aspiring chemists and chemistry-adjacent professionals.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 DINNER MEETING



Curtis P. Martin
Senior Chemist, Noblis, Inc.

“Reflections on a Non-Traditional Path
to a Career in Chemical Security”



Join us in person* or virtually on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. ET

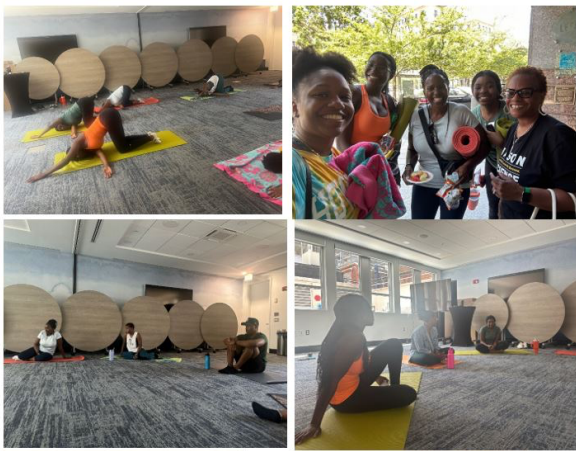
*Dinner is served in person, requires registration and payment

ACS Headquarters, Marvel Hall - 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, DC

CMA and YOGA

On July 6, 2024, the ACS Chemical Society of Washington Committee on Minority Affairs had a very relaxing, peaceful well-being Yoga + Wellness class!

Jasmine Washington, the owner of ASAP Wellness Community, stretched our physical bodies and also our minds. We talked about freedom and what it means to each of us: spiritual freedom, mental freedom, financial freedom, and physical freedom. We left feeling powerful (in our power pose) and able to work on letting go of the things we can't control (and our new deep breathing techniques!).



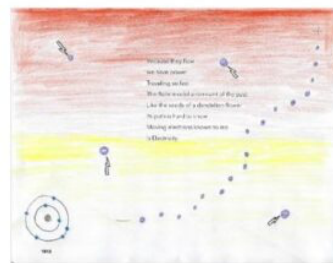
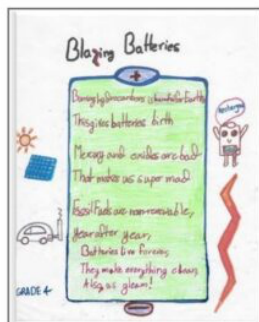
ACS Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions - Fall 2024

Please visit the Capital Chemist website to view a summary of key actions of the ACS Council meeting held on August 21, and the meeting of the ACS Board of Directors held between August 16 – 18, 2024.

View full document: <https://tinyurl.com/28ef8c5t>

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) Illustrated Poem Contest!

As part of CCEW 2024, students from grades K-12 were invited to share their interpretation of this year's theme, "Get a Charge Out of Chemistry", in the form of illustrated poems. Winners qualified for the national contest via ACS local sections.



View the winning submissions on the Capital Chemist website:

- Grades 3-5 Regional winner:
Siyona D.: https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/siyona_d.jpg
- Grades 6-8 Regional winner:
Maya M.: https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/6-8_Maya_M_Poem.jpg
- Grades 9-12 Regional winner:
Arthur J.: https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/9-12_Arthur_J_Poem.jpg

Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Rockville Science Day 2024 - a huge success!

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) celebrated Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) 2024, during the annual Rockville Science Day event on Sunday, April 21, at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. The event was a huge success! According to the Rockville Science Center Organization, 3500 people attended this big event. CSW collaborated with the STEM Ed Club at Montgomery College under the guidance and collaboration efforts of Nevart Tahmazian, CSW Outreach Committee Co-Chair/ACS Councilor, and STEM Ed Club Advisor/Professor at Montgomery College.

The theme this year for CCEW was “Get a Charge Out of Chemistry” and various activities and demos were held illustrating the theme. Kids and parents were invited to:

- Build a battery out of lemons and potatoes
- Observe electroplating in action and take home a copper-plated key
- Participate in a human battery demo
- Learn about electrical circuits with lights and buzzers

Our talented outreach team also inspired kids with the ACS’s self-inflating balloon activity and by demonstrating metal alloy chemistry in action by changing pennies into brass.

At the event CSW hosted a table with handouts to keep the excitement for chemistry going at home. Families were able to take home copies of “Celebrating Chemistry”, CCEW stickers, electricity-themed temporary tattoos, and even homemade lemon battery themed buttons made by CSW president Lauren Ragle. We also talked with families about the CCEW Illustrated Poem contest.

Many thanks to our wonderful CSW volunteer team: Nevert Tahmazian (CSW Outreach Committee Co-Chair/ACS Councilor), Stephanie Moffitt (CSW Outreach Coordinator, CSW Outreach Committee, and CSW Councilor), Lauren Ragle (CSW president), Savanah Shumaker (CSW Manager-at-large), Evan Jahrman, Iman Ali Garmiani, Robert Andrews, Laura Anna, and Cherrie Ramos.

Below you’ll find pictures of some of the activities held at this event. We hope you enjoy the pictures; they reflect the fun that was had by so many!



CSW 2024 president, Lauren Ragle, and volunteer, Robby Andrews, show students how a lemon battery works. Students saw how the voltage changed by connecting more lemons together or by switching from lemons to potatoes.



CSW volunteer, Evan Jahrman, fascinates his audience by changing a copper penny to silver and gold.



Volunteers engaged sought audience participation in making an electric circuit and explaining about how electricity works. People of all ages were engaged in the hands-on activities!



CSW Outreach Co-Chair, Stephanie Moffitt, hosting the CSW table with giveaways: stickers, tattoos, "Celebrating Chemistry" pamphlets, and Illustrated Poem activity information.



STEM ED Club members explain the "Human Battery" activity.



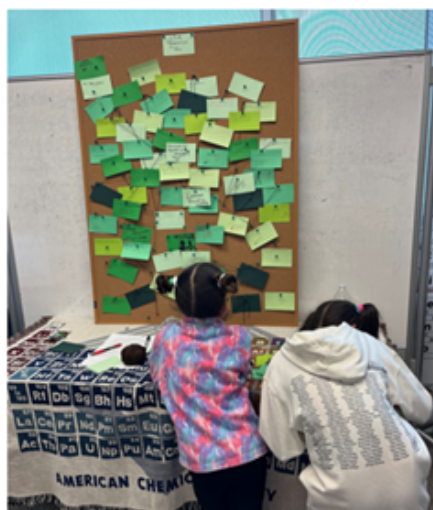
Bursting Balloon is always a hit with kids!
What chemical reaction is happening inside the balloon to inflate it?



Key Electroplating was another big hit! Everyone walked away with a copper plated key. It is never too early to inspire a child to become a future scientist.



The informative poster prepared by the students of the STEM ED Club for the RSD event, explaining the theme of CCEW 2024 "Getting a Charge out of Chemistry".



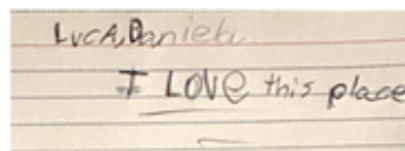
Participants contributed their thoughts on how they can help the environment on our Earth-day resolution tree.



CSW Outreach Co-Chairs, Stephanie Moffitt and Nevart Tahmazian, take a break to pose for a picture.



Everyone was engaged and fascinated with the cool science behind the various demos and activities.



We got positive feedback in our feedback box.



Our volunteers, before and after "Getting a charge out of Chemistry".



CSW 2024 President: Lauren Ragle, MC Chem Dept Chair: Laura Ana, CSW Outreach Co-chair: Nevert Tahmazian, CSW Manager: Savannah Shumaker CSW volunteer: Cherrie Ramos, CSW Outreach Co-chair: Stephanie Moffitt

Call for Nominations for the 2024 William F. Hillebrand Prize - applications due November 15, 2024

Nominations are being accepted for the **2024 Hillebrand Prize Award**. The deadline to submit a nomination is November 15, 2024.

Nominations are invited for the 2024 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



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

American Chemist
ACS President 1906

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 award winners: <https://capitalchemist.org/2018/06/hillebrand-prize-recipients-by-year/>

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.

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, 2024. The awardee will be announced before the end of the year, and the Prize will be presented at the CSW dinner meeting in March 2025, 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 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.

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, 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.

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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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President-elect

Allison Aldridge

Immediate Past President

Alessandra Zimmermann

Secretary

Lee Nagao

Treasurer

Reyniak A. Richards

CSW Calendar of Events

- September 16: CSW Board Meeting
- September 19: CSW Dinner Meeting
- November 15: Deadline for Hillebrand Prize Nominations
- November 15: Deadline for Gordon and Schubert Award nominations
- November 21: CSW Board Meeting