

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

May 14, 2025, dinner meeting featuring 2024 Hillebrand Prize winner, 2024 Gordon Awardee, 2024 Schubert Awardee, and 2024 College Chemistry Achievement Awardees

2024 Hillebrand Prize Winner

Seth M. Cohen, Ph.D.

Recipient of the 2024 Hillebrand Prize for accomplishments in the field of materials chemistry, particularly seminal advancements of PSM and polymer composites.



2024 Gordon Awardee

Jason Schaff, Ph.D.

Recipient of the 2024 Gordon Award 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.



2024 Schubert Awardee

Sharone Simmons, Ph.D.

Recipient of the 2024 Schubert Award in recognition of outstanding teaching of high school chemistry.



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May 2025

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College Chemistry Achievement Awards

Recipients of the College Chemistry Achievement Award are presented to outstanding seniors majoring in chemistry and biochemistry who have demonstrated excellence in chemistry based on a combination of (in order of importance) research experience, coursework, and a desire to pursue chemistry associated careers from each of the area four-year colleges and universities.

View the list of awardees: <https://tinyurl.com/2nxv46pr>

Meeting Logistics

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. Check-in / Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Dr. Seth M. Cohen, 2024 Hillebrand Prize winner, will present, "MOF-Polymer Hybrids - At the Interface of New Materials"

Menu: Meal will be catered by W. Millar & Co. and will feature Miami Mixed Grill (mojito chicken, seared tuna steak, cilantro-lime flank steak), bread board, broccoli/tomato/green beans, citrus spinach salad, assorted bars/cookies. Beverages will be provided. Vegetarian option (portobello mushrooms stuffed with ratatouille) is **available by request only**.

Cost: \$28 (half price for students and high school teachers)

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

Registration is required if you wish to participate virtually via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/mth95rs8>

RSVP by noon (ET) Monday, May 12, 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

Abstract

Composite materials consisting of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and polymers have gained interest as processable composites that might be suitable for a wide range of applications. Several approaches have been pursued to create MOF-polymer composites, including mixed-matrix membranes (MMMs) prepared with MOFs, polymer-decorated MOF particles, and MOFs constructed from polymer building blocks, referred to as polyMOFs. The design, synthesis, and characteristics of these distinct MOF-polymer composite materials will be presented and discussed.

Congressional Chemistry Caucus Reception "Innovative Chemistries for a Cleaner America" May 20, 2025, 5-6pm

Americans rely on cleaning products and disinfectants to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria, pathogens, and viruses that can make people and pets sick. Whether at home or work, in restaurants, schools, hospitals, public transit, or even Capitol Hill, cleaning products and their active ingredients play a crucial role in protecting the well-being of Americans every day.



Join the Chemistry Caucus for a reception highlighting the importance of the innovative chemistries that play a role in products that protect public health.

RSVP: https://wapps.acihq.org/form/ChemCaucus/ACI_Event_ChemCaucus_Confirm.aspx

Call for Nominations for CSW Officers/Councilors/Managers – 2025

The annual election of Officers, Councilors, and Managers-At-Large of the Chemical Society of Washington will be held in October/November 2025 in accordance with the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Section. All eligible CSW Members are invited and encouraged to submit nominations for the open positions. Self-nomination is acceptable. Elected members have general charge of the business and affairs of the CSW. Each member of the Board is expected to attend all Board meetings, normally five per year, and to serve on at least one CSW committee. Additionally, Councilors serve as CSW's representatives to ACS governance and are expected to attend all meetings of the ACS Council, held in conjunction with the ACS National Meetings, if at all possible. Alternate Councilors serve as backups for Councilors who are unable to attend a Council meeting.



Nominations are requested to be submitted before July 1, though members may continue to submit nominations up to August 15. Nominations should be emailed to the CSW@acs.org with the subject "CSW Nomination." All CSW members are eligible for nomination, although student members may only serve as Managers-at-Large. CSW welcomes all nominations, including of members who have not previously held CSW positions. Incumbents are eligible for nomination to the same position (if the term expires) or any other position as Officer, Councilor, or Manager-At-Large. Candidates will be provided with a form to fill out for publication with the voting materials.

The following positions are open for election this year:

- President-Elect (one year as President-Elect, one year as President, one year as Past-President)
- Secretary (serving a two-year term)
- 6 Managers-At-Large (serving two-year terms)
- 3 Councilors (serving three-year terms)
- 3 Alternate Councilors (serving three-year terms)

Current Members of the Board are Listed Below:

President: Allison A. Aldridge

President-Elect: Nevart Tahmazian

Immediate Past President: Lauren Ragle

Secretary: Lee Nagao

Treasurer: Andrew Tricker

Councilor through 2027: Allison A. Aldridge, Stephanie Moffitt, Jacqueline Smith

Councilor through 2026: Raychelle Burks, Alessandra Zimmermann

Councilor through 2025: LaKesha Perry, Nevart Tahmazian, Xiaoyong Lu

Alternate Councilor through 2027: Lauren Ragle, Monika Konaklieva

Alternate Councilor through 2026: Novella Bridges, Wesley Farrell, Alexander Zestos

Alternate Councilor through 2025: Joseph Duran, Ravinder Paul Lall, Sarah Ward

Managers-At-Large through 2026: Adriana Bankston, Steven Cummings, Reyniak Richards, Aditya Ashi Savara, Jason Schaff, Jennifer Swift

Managers-At-Large through 2025: Matthew Diasio, Carissa Hunter, Pritha Roy, Eva-Maria Rudler, Savanah Shumaker, Brandi Toliver

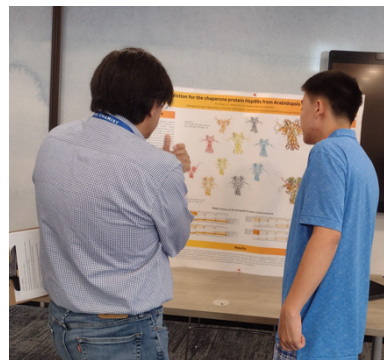
Nomination Form

https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/FORM_nominating_2025.docx

Excited for Another Summer of Project SEED!

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce we are hosting Project SEED for another year! We will be welcoming students from across the DC metro area to participate in a paid summer research internship at one of our local host sites. We had several excited students apply; however, we only had space for 8 students this year.

The summer programming will kick off on May 31st with our program's welcome session. A career panel will be held on July 19th with chemists from across the chemical enterprise sharing their stories and advice with our high school students. On August 2nd, Dr. Ragle will be holding a writing workshop for how to transform the students' stories into poster presentations.



After completing their summer research programs, our SEEDlings will be presenting their research posters at the Fall ACS Meeting in DC (during August 17-21). We hope you will support our students at the fall meeting this year and check out their stunning posters.

Interested in being a Project SEED mentor for 2026? Please reach out to Dr. Allison Aldridge (Allison457@aol.com) or Dr. Lauren Ragle (lragle@gwu.edu). Interested in learning more about Project SEED? Visit <https://www.acs.org/education/students/highschool/seed.html> to find out about the program and how to get involved.

Calling High School Students: The Chemagination competition will take place on May 31st at Seton Hall University, New Jersey

This year, MARM Chemagination will take place in conjunction with MARM 2025, sponsored by the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society. The 53rd Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) will be held May 28 - 31, 2025 at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. The Chemagination competition will take place on Saturday afternoon, May 31st. Learn more about MARM at <https://marm2025.com/>.



For this event, high school students are asked to imagine that they are living 25 years in the future and have been invited to write an article for *ChemMatters*, an ACS magazine for high school students that focuses on the role of chemistry in everyday life. Students are also asked to design the magazine cover. The subject of the article is to, “describe a recent breakthrough or innovation in chemistry (and/or its applications) that has improved the quality of people’s lives today.” The article must be written as if it is the year 2050 and the author should describe an innovation that has occurred since 2025. The innovation must fit into one of four categories: alternative energy, environment, medicine/health, or new materials. Prizes will be awarded in each of the four categories. First place category winners from the ACS local sections’ Chemagination competitions are eligible to compete on the regional level. If this team cannot participate for any reason, the second place winner or other team can serve as an alternate.

Chemagination is a unique experience for students in that it encourages the investigation of past, present, and/or future discoveries in chemistry and related sciences. It also provides the opportunity for students to apply their creativity and enhance their teamwork, public speaking, and presentation skills.

Please see the competition description and rules for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2t9bf5>.

KEY DEADLINES:

- April 8 - Local sections notify the MARM 2025 Chemagination Chair of their intent to participate in MARM 2025 Chemagination
- May 12 - Local sections submit their estimate of the number of teams they will be sending to the MARM 2025 Chemagination
- May 18 - Local sections submit the Chemagination entry forms, which include the article titles for each category and the name and contact information for each student. (Submission process will be announced at a later date)
- May 24 - Teams submit their articles for pre-judging
- May 31 - MARM 2025 Chemagination takes place at Seton Hall University

Register for MARM 2025

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) will be held May 28-31, 2025, at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. This meeting will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the North



Jersey Section of the ACS. A plenary lecture will be given by Nobel Laureate Morten Meldal (2022); a co-recipient for his work on the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry. Keynote lectures will be presented by Phaedria St. Hilaire, angel investor and co-founder of ProWoC (Professional Women of Color) and by Rebecca Ruck, Associate Vice President in Process Research & Development at Merck & Company and co-founder of EWOC (Empowering Women in Organic Chemistry). Programming is accepted in all areas of chemistry. Organized symposia areas include Advances in AI in Chemistry, Biomaterials, Optical Materials, Environmental Chemistry, Mechanistic Organometallic Chemistry, Chemical Biology and Biochemistry, Green Chemistry and Organic/Medicinal Chemistry.

Learn more, and register, at <https://marm2025.com/>.

Successful Chemistry Olympiad Reboot – 2025

This past spring, the Chemical Society of Washington welcomed over 140 local high school students into the official reboot of the Chemistry Olympiad competition. The co-coordinators (Lauren Ragle, Eva-Marie Rudler, and Savannah Shumaker) worked diligently to communicate with local high school teachers who already had students sign up for the annual competition. Later this year, we will be doing more open advertising to encourage young minds to get involved in this tradition.



The local section exam was available online or on paper. Some students were unable to take the exam during the regular school week, so CSW hosted them at the ACS national headquarters building. Once the local section competition was finished, we could only promote 17 of the top-scoring students on to the national-level exam. We will continue to advocate for the expansion of the 2-students per school limit and the potential expansion from 17 students from across our region.

We are eternally grateful for the wonderful faculty at Montgomery College (both Takoma Park and Rockville campuses), who hosted us for the national exam. This includes Laura Anna (department chair at Rockville), Valeria Lantz (department chair at Takoma Park), and Dwayne Henry (lab manager at Takoma Park). These faculty, along with current MC students, were beyond amazing to work with and encourage our high schoolers.

While we are waiting to hear about students moving on to the international portion of the Chemistry Olympiad, we are very proud of all of our students who competed – both on the local and national level. We know the future of science is in good hands with these wise young scientists!

Around mid-October, we will begin the call for local Chemistry Olympiad students for the 2026 exam – so keep an eye on your inbox! As a reminder: If you wanted a PDF or printed copy of your participation certificate, please notify Lauren Ragle (lragle@gwu.edu).

CSW's Committee on Minority Affairs participated in NE/SE NOBCChE Regional Conference at STEMfest on April 6, 2025

The Committee on Minority Affairs was thrilled to participate in the recent NE/SE NOBCChE Regional Conference at STEMfest.



Unleash the East:
Igniting Collaborative Science for Global Impact
Northeast & Southeast Joint Regional Conference 2025

As part of our outreach and engagement efforts, CMA hosted an interactive science station designed to spark curiosity and excitement about chemistry in young learners. With the enthusiastic support of student volunteers from Virginia State University (VSU) and Howard University, we guided children through a hands-on activity that demonstrated how to create "fake snow" using polyacrylamide, a superabsorbent polymer.

The experiment served as a fun and tangible introduction to polymer science, allowing students to explore the properties of materials that can absorb many times their weight in water. As the powder transformed into a fluffy, snow-like substance before their eyes, participants were amazed and eager to learn more about the science behind the reaction.

We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers from VSU and Howard for bringing their energy, knowledge, and passion to this event. Their involvement played a key role in making the experience both educational and memorable for all participants.



ACS Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions - Spring 2025

The link below will provide a summary to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting held on March 26, and the meeting of the ACS Board of Directors held between March 21-23, 2025.

View the Councilor Talking Points: <https://tinyurl.com/3kz366hf>

Seeking Volunteers for the Local Section Booth at the 2025 ACS Fall Meeting

As you may be aware, the fall ACS meeting will be held in DC this year. As such, CSW is the local section host! We will have our own booth to welcome people to our neck of the woods. Therefore, we are seeking energetic volunteers to staff our booth. More details will come, of course, but we are going to be staffing the booth with 2 volunteers each day. Each volunteer will get a handcrafted thank you gift from our 2024 President, Lauren Ragle. If you are interested in helping, please email csw@acs.org.

**SEEKING
VOLUNTEERS**

2025 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 all CSW members. Dates of the board meetings for 2025 are as follows:

- May 19th
- September 15th
- November 20th – virtual only

Our meetings are always from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and are typically 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.

Call for Nominations for the 2025 William F. Hillebrand Prize - Applications Due November 15, 2025

Nominations are being accepted for the **2025 Hillebrand Prize Award**. The deadline to submit a nomination is November 15, 2025.

Nominations are invited for the 2025 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 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, 2025. The awardee will be announced before the end of the year, and the Prize will be presented at the CSW dinner meeting in Spring 2026, 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 2025 Leo Schubert Memorial Award - Submissions Due November 15

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Leo Schubert Memorial Award to recognize an outstanding teacher of high school chemistry 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 15th. Please contact csw@acs.org if you have any questions.

Call for Nominations for the 2025 Charles L. Gordon Award - submissions due by November 15

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@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 40) 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.

Applications being accepted for the Student Travel Award – ACS Fall 2025 Meeting

The ACS National Meeting for Fall 2025 will be held in Washington, DC, on August 17-21, 2025. 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 Fall 2025 National ACS meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration, travel expenses, and lodging. Applicants should submit the following by Midnight June 1, 2025 to CSW (email: 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://www.acs.org/events/fall/presenters/submit-an-abstract.html>

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 (if you aren't sure whether you are within our area, you can use the Local Section Lookup tool to search by zip code: https://lslookup.acs.org/lslookup/local_search). 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.

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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.

2025 Officers

President

Allison Aldridge

President-elect

Nevart Tahmazian

Immediate Past President

Lauren Ragle

Secretary

Lee Nagao

Treasurer

Andrew Tricker

CSW Calendar of Events

- May 1: Deadline to Apply for Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award
- May 14: CSW Dinner Meeting
- May 19: CSW Board Meeting
- May 20: Congressional Chemistry Caucus Reception
- May 28-31: MARM
- May 31: Chemagination
- June 1: CSW Travel Award Deadline
- July 1: CSW Election Nominations due
- August 17-21: ACS National Meeting
- September 15: CSW Board Meeting
- November 15: Deadline to submit nominations for Hillebrand Prize, Gordon Award, Schubert Award
- November 20: CSW Board Meeting