

# THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

## CSW Dinner Meeting June 4, 2026, featuring Andrew R. Davis, “Chemistry at the Library of Congress labs, from audio tapes to historic maps”

### Meeting Logistics

**Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2026

**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 Street, N.W., Washington, DC

**Menu:** Meal will be catered by W. Millar & Co. and will feature chicken marsala and shrimp scampi, served with parsley egg noodles, Caesar salad, bread board and assorted cookies/bars. Beverages will be provided.

Vegetarian option – Miso-glazed Eggplant (GF, Ve) **available by request only.**

**Cost:** \$26.00 per person (half price for students and high school teachers)

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

Register for the virtual option via Zoom:  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdcty5vc>

**RSVP by noon (ET) Tuesday, June 2, to [csw@acs.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Volume 76, Number 5

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#### Inside this issue:

##### Events

- Register for the June dinner meeting
- Join the MD ACS Chapter for their upcoming social
- Plan to join an upcoming CMA meeting

##### Section News

- Nominate a friend or colleague for the CSW election
- Read the Councilor Talking Points from March 2026
- See the recaps from CCEW
- CSW mourns the passing of Prof. Michael P. Doyle, Past President of CSW

##### Awards / Opportunities

- Help plan MARM 2028
- Apply for the Pfizer Emergent Leader Award
- Nominate a CSW member for the Hillebrand Prize, Gordon Award, or Schubert Award
- Apply for the CSW Student Travel Award
- Apply for the Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

## Speaker Bio

Dr. Andrew Davis is a chemist in the Library of Congress's Preservation Research and Testing Division. He studies paper and polymeric materials such as cellulose, adhesives, and modern media, with the goal of applying fundamental polymer science to inform the preservation of Library collections. Andrew is also involved in work to better understand the role of light, oxygen, and material to better enable public display of light-sensitive objects. He enjoys working with interns and visiting researchers, from high school students to postdocs. Andrew received his PhD in Polymer Science and Engineering at UMass Amherst and has previously worked in the Central Research Laboratories of 3M.



## Abstract

The Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD) within the Library of Congress provides the scientific cornerstone to the Library's objectives of preserving access to the wide range of materials in the Library's collection, spanning books, manuscripts, maps, audiovisual media, and assorted historical objects. Dr. Davis will describe his scientific analyses supporting two projects: remediation of degraded 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial audiovisual media and long-term exhibition of one-of-a-kind maps of America using unique low-oxygen display encasements. These projects illustrate PRTD's use of laboratory experiments (e.g., artificial aging, thermal property analysis) to analyze representative reference samples, and the use of non-invasive methods (e.g., spectroscopic and colorimetric analysis) to directly analyze Library collection objects.

## In Memoriam: Professor Michael P. Doyle

*Michael Doyle served on the CSW Board, including as CSW President in 2016. The following was posted by the UTSA Chemistry Department on April 16, 2026:*

The UT San Antonio community mourns the passing of Professor Michael P. Doyle, a distinguished organic chemist, educator, and mentor whose career shaped generations of scientists and advanced the field of chemistry worldwide.



Professor Doyle held faculty and leadership positions at Hope College, Trinity University, the University of Arizona, the University of Maryland–College Park, and ultimately UT San Antonio, where he served as the Rita and John Feik Distinguished University Chair in Medicinal Chemistry. Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in enantioselective catalysis—including the eponymous Doyle–Kirmse reaction—he authored hundreds of publications, patents, books, and book chapters, and was a Fellow of both the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Above all, Prof. Doyle's greatest passion was training undergraduates in organic chemistry. Over the course of his career, he mentored hundreds of undergraduate researchers, more than 150 of whom became co-authors on scientific publications and went on to impactful careers of their own. He often said that mentoring students was what he was most proud of, and his commitment to undergraduate research left an indelible mark on chemistry education nationwide.

To honor this commitment, Professor Doyle and his wife, Janice, established a scholarship fund to provide summer financial support for undergraduate research students. Those wishing to honor his memory are invited to contribute to this fund at <https://engage.utsa.edu/Doyle>

Professor Doyle's legacy lives on through the students he trained, the colleagues he inspired, and the scientific community he helped build.

You can view the obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/legacy/michael-doyle>.

# Invitation to join MD ACS Chapter at its Spring Social on May 22, 2026

**WHEN:** May 22nd at 4:00 pm to 6:30pm

**WHERE:** Cushwa's Rad Pies Taproom, 6695 Dobbin Rd, Columbia, MD 21045

The Maryland ACS chapter is happy to announce a Spring Social and Meetup on May 22nd! We hope that this event will be the first of many, to help strengthen connections between the variety of chemistry communities in our corner of the DMV. Please come on out, find us under the Erlenmeyer flask balloon, buy a beer, and chat!

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/yumb948t>

## Call for Nominations for CSW Officers/Councilors/Managers

The annual election of Officers, Councilors, and Managers-At-Large of the Chemical Society of Washington will be held in October/November 2026 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 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 [csw@acs.org](mailto:csw@acs.org) with the subject "CSW Nomination." Self-nomination is acceptable. All CSW members are eligible for nomination, although student members may only serve as Managers-at-Large. CSW welcomes all nominations, including nominations 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)
- Treasurer (serving a two-year term)
- 6 Managers-At-Large (serving two-year terms)
- 2 Councilors (serving three-year terms)
- 3 Alternate Councilors (serving three-year terms)
- 1 Alternate Councilor (serving a one-year partial term)

Current Members of the Board: <https://capitalchemist.org/officers/>

Download the nomination form: <https://tinyurl.com/97wffvf8>

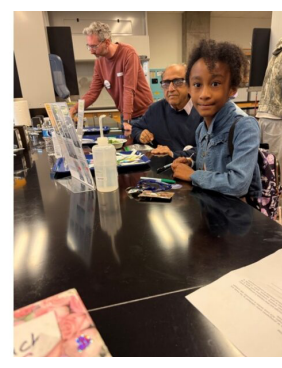
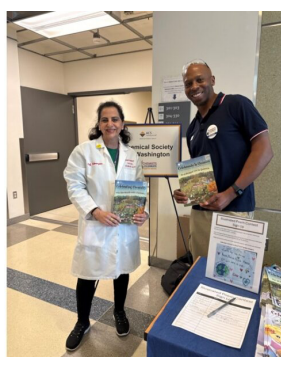
# CSW Celebrated Earth Week with Hundreds at Rockville Science Day on April 26, 2026

This year the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) partnered with several groups to bring chemistry activities to the community during Rockville Science Day for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW). Up on the 3rd floor of the Science Building, CSW worked with the Montgomery College STEM Ed Club, the Rockville Chemistry Department, the Northwest ACS Chem Club, and ACS National to welcome over 750 students and their families.

CSW volunteers patiently worked with students as they learned about pigments in leaves with the “Color Quest” chromatography activity. Families were delighted by the color flame test demonstration. Future engineers tested their building skills with the Engineering Bridge Challenge. Parents and students alike enjoyed learning about the chemistry behind lava lamps. Students received a souvenir with the self-inflating balloon activity which taught them about the signs of a chemical reaction. Families also got to take home stickers and buttons made by Lauren in honor of the CCEW theme “Into the Woods with Chemistry”. Keychains celebrating the 150th anniversary of ACS, brought by ACS National, were also a big hit.

Overall, it was a very busy, but successful, afternoon. A huge thank you to all our volunteers: Greg, Noah, Lily, Ravinder, Lauren, Nevert, Brian, Daryl, Odalys, and Iman.





## Chemists Celebrate Earth Week at Riderwood Festival - April 2026

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) partnered Dr. Richard Goodman for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week. Volunteers Verlese Gaither and Odalys Campos walked participants through the chemistry activity "Small Changes in Structure Can Lead to Big Changes in Fragrance" which demonstrates how enantiomers effect smell. The CSW outreach coordinator, Dr. Stephanie Moffitt, was pleased to hear that the activity materials she prepared were well received by the 100 or so residents who participated in the Earth Day Festival.



## Volunteer Opportunity: Help Plan MARM 2028

The Chemical Society of Washington has been selected as the host of the 2028 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) of the ACS. An organizing committee has been established, and preparations are already underway. The meeting will be held right in the heart of Washington, DC, at historic Howard University June 8 – 10, 2028. Howard was selected for its prime location, favorable accommodations, and historic nature as one of the first HBCUs established in the United States after the Civil War by General Oliver Otis Howard. While we plan to include many of the symposia you are used to from other regional and national ACS meetings, we will also work to include symposia geared towards government labs and policy making given our unique location. We hope you can make this meeting to share and hear about great chemistry happening in the Mid-Atlantic area, but even more so we hope you can assist in our preparations!

So far, the organizing committee is composed of the following volunteers: Prof. Wes Farrell of the US Naval Academy is the General Chair, Prof. Lauren Ragle of George Washington University and Prof. Jacqueline Smith of Howard University are the Co-Program Chairs, Dr. Alessandra Zimmerman of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences is the Communications Chair, former CSW President Dr. Jason Schaff is the Treasurer, Prof. Alex Zestos of American University is the Outreach and Volunteering Chair, and our outgoing CSW President Dr. Allison Aldridge is the Fundraising Chair. Additionally, Prof. Steven Cummings of Howard University is hard at work serving as a liaison between the committee and Howard University officials.

The local organizing committee is currently seeking to fill additional roles which require different levels of commitment. Furthermore, we hope to have volunteers to organize and preside over symposia, and make suggestions for plenary speakers. We encourage you to share your thoughts or volunteer using our Google survey: <https://tinyurl.com/yjtcvaxr>.

## Applications are now being accepted: CSW Student Travel Award - ACS Fall 2026 Meeting

The ACS National Meeting for Fall 2026 will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on August 23-27, 2026. 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 ACS Fall 2026 meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration, travel expenses, airfare and lodging. Applicants should submit the following by midnight on June 1, 2026 to [csw@acs.org](mailto: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.

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 or 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.

## Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize: Recognizing original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)



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

American Chemist  
ACS President 1906

Nominations are being accepted for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize Award.

Nominations are invited for the 2026 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.

View the list of past 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 broadly on the chemical accomplishments of the nominee, rather than their bio, 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](mailto: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](mailto:csw@acs.org). All materials must be received by November 15, 2026. The Prize will be presented at a CSW dinner meeting in Spring 2027, 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](mailto:csw@acs.org).

## Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Charles L. Gordon Award: Recognizing Excellence in Service

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 fall 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.

The nomination should be submitted electronically to [csw@acs.org](mailto:csw@acs.org). Please contact CSW ([csw@acs.org](mailto:csw@acs.org)), if you have any questions.

## Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Leo Schubert Award: Recognizing Excellence in Chemistry Teachers

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 a fall 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 via our website: <https://tinyurl.com/29k2vvh4>

Alternatively, a pdf version of the nomination form can be obtained by an email request to [csw@acs.org](mailto:csw@acs.org). Completed nomination forms can be sent directly to [csw@acs.org](mailto:csw@acs.org). Please contact [csw@acs.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> for winter and spring meetings and May 1<sup>st</sup> for summer and fall meetings. More information is available on the Division website at <https://acsanalytical.org/award/younger-chemists-conference-travel-grants/>. The application forms will be available when the application period is open.

# WCC 2027 Pfizer Emergent Leader Award Application Deadline - May 15, 2026

The ACS Women Chemists Committee (WCC)/Pfizer Emergent Leader Award will sponsor eight graduate student or post-doctoral researchers to present at an award symposium during the ACS Spring 2027 Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Awardees will receive a \$1,500 travel stipend to cover expenses for the meeting. They will be invited to participate in networking activities with Pfizer and WCC at the Awards Symposium Reception, the WCC Luncheon featuring the 2027 Garvan-Olin Medalist, and the Just Cocktails Reception. For more information on the award, please visit <https://acswwc.org/awards/pfizer-emergent-leader-award/> or send an email to [WCC@acs.org](mailto:WCC@acs.org). The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 15, 2026.



Apply today: <https://fs7.formsite.com/vatz5F/wccpfizeraward/index>

## Committee on Minority Affairs Meeting Schedule

The Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA) had a great start with our first meeting in February! We're excited to announce that we'll now be hosting monthly meetings via Zoom and would love for you to join us.

### Upcoming Dates

- May 7, 2026
- June 4, 2026
- July 2, 2026
- August 6, 2026
- September 3, 2026
- October 1, 2026
- November 5, 2026
- December 3, 2026

### Meeting Details

Topic: CSW CMA Committee Meeting  
Time: 7:00 PM

### Join via Zoom

Meeting ID: 958 2100 7951  
Passcode: cswcma

## The Capital Chemist

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

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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.

### 2026 Officers

#### President

Nevart Tahmazian

#### President-elect

Lee M. Nagao

#### Immediate Past President

Allison Aldridge

#### Secretary

Nia Pollard

#### Treasurer

Bree Taylor

## CSW Calendar of Events

- May 1: DAC YCC Travel Award Deadline
- May 7: CMA Meeting
- May 15: Deadline to apply for Pfizer Emergent Leader Award
- May 22: MD ACS Chapter Social
- June 1: CSW Student Travel Award deadline
- June 4: CSW Dinner Meeting
- June 4: CMA Meeting
- July 1: Deadline for CSW election nominations
- July 2: CMA Meeting
- August 6: CMA Meeting
- September 3: CMA Meeting
- October 1: CMA Meeting
- November 5: CMA Meeting
- December 3: CMA Meeting

*The following CSW members contributed content to this month's newsletter: Wesley Farrell, Stephanie Moffitt, Aditya Savara, Jason Schaff, and Nevart Tahmazian.*