

### A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

### September 2025, Vol. 62, No. 9

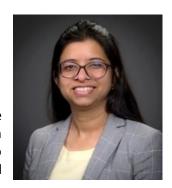
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### Chair Column Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

Dear Reader,

Happy Fall! This month, I am delighted to shine a spotlight on the remarkable progress and achievements of the **Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG)** in collaboration with the 2025 MMTG Chair, Dave Stickles. MMTG is dedicated to supporting technicians, technologists, and students pursuing chemistry-related



careers in the Mid-Michigan area and has evolved over time to be a cornerstone of our local chemistry community.

Established in 1991, MMTG originated from a vision to create a Technical Affiliate Group (TAG) within the Midland Section ACS. Over time as ACS evolved its structure, MMTG became affiliated with the ACS Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals (CPT), ensuring a strong connection to National ACS resources and advocacy for chemical technical professionals. Today, MMTG boasts a thriving membership of over 100 individuals, reflecting significant growth in recent years. This expansion has enabled the group to broaden its offerings and deliver even greater value to its members.

### **MMTG Programming**

MMTG's Executive Board works diligently to provide a rich array of programs and services designed to foster professional development, networking, and community engagement. The following list provides a few highlights.

### <u>Professional Development</u>

- **Skill-Building Seminars:** MMTG regularly organizes seminars on topics essential for career advancement, such as improving report writing techniques, enhancing presentation skills, and mastering technical poster preparation and presentation.
- Workshops for Growth: Members have benefited from workshops like the StrengthFinder Course
  which helps individuals identify and leverage their unique strengths, and the "Fall Scientific Meeting
  Workshop: No PhD Needed" which demystifies career progression for those without advanced
  degrees.
- Adapting to Change: Sessions on coping with change and maintaining a positive attitude equip members with tools to navigate the evolving landscape of the chemical industry.

### **Career Pathways**

 MMTG hosts presentations that examine the advantages and challenges of pursuing advanced degrees or higher company positions, empowering members to make informed decisions about their professional futures.

### **Community & Networking**

- Social Events: Building a sense of community is central to MMTG's mission. Annual events such as Chemical Technical Professionals (CTP) Day, the MMTG/Dow Tech Group Summer Picnic, Ice Cream Socials, and the End-of-Year Party provide opportunities for members to connect, share experiences, and celebrate achievements.
- **Member Communication:** MMTG keeps its members engaged and informed through regular email updates and an active Facebook page, fostering a supportive and interactive network.

#### STEM Outreach

MMTG partners with the Midland Section ACS to deliver impactful STEM outreach programs.
 Notable initiatives include Science Camp with Delta College's Possible Dream Program and Foster Palooza, both designed to spark curiosity and excitement for science among young learners.

#### **MMTG Member Testimonial**

"As a new hire, my safety mentor strongly suggested that I learn more about the Mid-Michigan Technician Group. After attending a few meetings, I knew I wanted to be involved. MMTG's focus is on networking and educating the community through volunteering. For the last five years, I have held a position on the Board of Directors. I have met some great people who have helped me with various technical challenges I faced and supported my volunteering efforts. MMTG has helped me gain confidence working in teams and leadership skills that have been translated into a promotion at work. Volunteering with MMTG has also given me purpose as I doubt that I would be in the STEM field if I hadn't attended events like what MMTG hosts! I enjoy educating the community and inspiring the next generation of STEM workers." -- Hannah Bailey, MMTG Board Member

### **MMTG Executive Board**

MMTG's success is driven by a dedicated Executive Board whose commitment ensures the group's continued growth and relevance. The 2025 Board members include:

Chair: Dave SticklesChair-Elect: Marie MartinSecretary: Jake Remacle

Delegates: Rachel Stockman, Kyle Krauseneck

Directors: Cory Bosma, Hunter Goldensoph, Marissa Walker, Hannah Bailey

MMTG is more than an organization. It is a community where technical professionals grow, connect, and lead. If you're looking to expand your skills, build your network, or make a difference in STEM, I encourage you to get involved. To learn more, go to <a href="https://www.midlandacs.org">www.midlandacs.org</a> or reach out to any MMTG Board member.

### ChemLuminary Awards for 2024 Outstanding Midland Section ACS Activity Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

The 2025 ACS ChemLuminary Awards were announced at the recent ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, in Washington, DC, and the Midland Section ACS won eight awards, the most for any local section! The current set of awards recognizes outstanding local section program activity in calendar year 2024. The 2025 awards for 2024 programs and activities received by the Midland Section ACS are listed in the table below.



Category	Midland ACS Events / Programs
Best New Communications Program	"What is Your Why?" Chair Column (in the monthly <i>Midland Chemist</i> publication)
Outstanding New Local Section Younger Chemists Committee (YCC)	Summary of 2024 YCC Events
Chemists with Disabilities Inclusion Award	Summary of Engagement with Special Needs Students (Outreach with special needs school programs)

Outstanding SEED Program (Small Site)	Summary of Midland Local Section Project SEED 2024 Program
Outstanding Local Section Industry Event	A Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist Program
Best Overall Minority Affairs Committee	Summary of 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Committee Events
Best Outstanding Community Involvement in Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW)	Summary of 2024 CCEW Activity (Both Midland and Nashville, a larger section, were recognized with this award)
Best Medium-Small Local Section	The Midland Local Section has won this award for the past 13 consecutive years in a row

None of this would have been possible without the hard work, passion, and collaboration of every single volunteer in the Midland Section ACS. And a special shout out to Erin Vogel, the 2024 Midland Section ACS Chair, for her leadership last year. Thank you, again, everyone, for everything that you do to make the Midland Section ACS a shining example of what a local section can achieve.



### Call for Nominations for 2026 Midland Section ACS Officer and Director Candidates Raghida Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee, Midland Section ACS

The strength and success of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) depend on the active participation of its members. One of the most impactful ways to contribute is by serving in an elected leadership role. Whether you're looking to shape the future of our local scientific community, broaden your professional network, or develop leadership skills, we encourage you to consider running for an officer or director position in the upcoming 2026 elections.

### **Open Positions for 2026:**

- Chair-elect (1-year term)\*
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (1-year term)
- Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

\*Note: The Chair-elect position is a three-year commitment, progressing from Chair-elect (2026) to Chair (2027) and then to Past Chair (2028). The Chair and Past Chair roles are not subject to annual elections unless a vacancy occurs.

### Why Run?

- Influence the direction of local ACS programs and initiatives
- Represent the voice of your peers in the scientific community
- Gain valuable leadership and organizational experience
- Collaborate with a passionate and diverse team of professionals

### **Position Descriptions:**

### **Chair-elect**

The Chair-elect shall serve as Acting Chair of the Section in the absence of the Chair. Additionally, the Chair-elect will succeed to the Chair of the Section in the following January (2027). They serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

### Secretary

The Secretary records the proceedings of the Section and its Executive Committee, maintains a list of members and associates, sends to members and associates such notices as the business of the Section may require, and carries out all other duties outlined in the Society and Section bylaws.

#### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget in cooperation with the Chair and Finance Committee. They shall also pay the bills, handle receipts, keep financial records, and report to the Board of Directors. Lastly, the Treasurer will prepare an annual report with the content and format required by the National ACS and file the IRS returns.

### **Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee**

The Nominations and Elections Committee is charged with identifying qualified candidates for leadership positions in the Section and setting up and certifying the elections.

### **Directors**

Directors are expected to attend Board meetings and to participate in the Board's deliberations. Directors should maintain an interest in local and national ACS affairs so that they can give informed consideration to the Section's issues. They should be alert to the needs and opinions of the Section membership. Three Directors must be elected to the Executive Committee, which may require attendance at additional meetings.

#### **How to Nominate or Learn More:**

If you are interested in running or would like to nominate a colleague, please contact Raghida Bou Zerdan at <a href="mailto:rbouzerdan@dow.com">rbouzerdan@dow.com</a> or reach out to any current officer. Additional information about the Midland Section ACS is available at <a href="mailto:www.midlandacs.org">www.midlandacs.org</a>.



## SKILLS BEYOND THE BENCH: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INDUSTRIAL SCIENTIST

Spend a day learning about STEM careers in industry! Work with industry professionals on a case study, poster session, and networking with industrial scientists.

### **EUENT SPONSORS:**

American Chemical Society | Women Chemists Committee | NOBCChE | Mid-Michigan AIChE

#### MEET SCIENTISTS FROM:



Who: Anyone interested in STEM careers When: Sept 27, 2025, 9 am - 3 pm

Where: University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI

Cost: Free

Refreshments and lunch provided with registration. Transportation to be subsidized. Carpooling encouraged!

### Questions?

Email Kim Dinh at KDinh@dow.com or Jessica Tischler at jtisch@umich.edu



Register by Sept 19th!

### KEYNOTE:

Setbacks and Solutions: Problem Solving and Growth in STEM Careers



Rana Mohtadi, PhD Senior Principal Scientist Toyota Research Inst. of America Univ. of Michigan-Flint



Jessica Kelts, PhD Professor



Monique Wilhelm, MS Field Services Engineer Agilent Technologies

Seeking Volunteer Mentors for a Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist, September 27 Kim Dinh, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS





### **Volunteers Needed!**

### Be a mentor at Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9 AM - 1 PM, UM-Flint

Network, collaborate on a problem-solving challenge, and share your career path with college students! Light breakfast and lunch provided.

Sign Up or Questions: Kim Dinh (kdinh@dow.com) or Isabel Meza (mmeza1@dow.com)







### Midland Section ACS Centennial Exhibit Update and the National ACS's 150th Year! Gina Malczewaki, Director and Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS



The National American Chemical Society turns 150 in April 2026. Efforts to relocate the Midland Section's Centennial Exhibit are allowing us to celebrate both local and National milestones at the same time!

The Midland Section ACS Centennial Exhibit, first displayed at the Herbert Doan History Center in Midland in 2019, and then moved to the Museum of Cultural and Natural History in Rowe Hall at Central Michigan University, was recently relocated to storage in May 2025. We have been investigating options for additional display(s) of the contents of the exhibit, all or in part, with new materials appropriate for future host locations.

The Centennial Exhibit, along with adjunct programming, won six National ACS ChemLuminary awards from 2019 to 2023. Although the exhibit was closed during the COVID pandemic, it was eventually visited by dozens of school groups and seniors from assisted living facilities. Programming (more than 15 events) has ranged from

hosting author Sam Kean (in person, his latest book is *Dinner with King Tut*) to Frankenstein Fridays, a hands-on holiday chemistry session, and a fireworks event.

We are currently working with the Bay County Historical Museum (BCHM, in Bay City) and Northwood University locations in Midland to host some of the previous content as well as new information and activities. The exhibits will address topics such as the importance of chemistry, its history, and its impact on the local communities where its teaching and practice have been prominent. We are fortunate to be working again with the exhibit's initial designer, John Metcalf, of the Good Design Group.

Programming at BCHM will begin September 20, 2025, with "Super Soaker," a program open to all that deals with the properties of super absorbent (diaper) polymer, developed by Dow and studied by a Midland scientist who literally "wrote the book" on the topic. Details on this and other upcoming events can be found on the Museum's calendar and social media site (https://www.bchsmuseum.org/events.html).

We will be providing updates on this effort and other activities related to the National ACS 150th celebration. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Malczewski at <a href="mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com">reginamalczewski@gmail.com</a>.

### Looking for Subject Matter Mentors at MSU St. Andrews for Science Fair Preparation Robin McGuire, Science Educator, MSU St. Andrews, Midland



Hello, and greetings from MSU St. Andrews, in Midland.

If you are passionate about science and engineering and interested in passing along your subject matter expertise to young people, we have a rewarding volunteer opportunity for you to consider.

As part of our youth outreach activity, we sponsor a Research Club for middle and high school students to help them prepare for the Flint Regional Science and Engineering Fair held in March. This year we are partnering with the Midland Center for the Arts and including elementary-aged students as well.

Along with the traditional disciplines in science, the Science Fair includes exciting new categories like TECA (Technology Enhances the Arts). A complete list of the categories can be found at <a href="https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/categories-and-subcategories/">https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/categories-and-subcategories/</a>.

Students can work in teams or solo to carry out a science or engineering project and present their information at the Science Fair. Top competitors will then compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF, formally known as the Westinghouse Talent Search).

Beginning scientists need mentors! Having an adult that is interested in their project to bounce ideas off of and to ask technical questions can make a huge difference. Please consider volunteering to act as a mentor for the 2025-2026 MSU St. Andrews Research Club.

### **Time Commitment:**

(2-3 hours) Our **Research Club Kick-Off** will be held on Saturday September 20, 2025. We would like to have as many mentors as possible attend from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, talk briefly about their work, and be available for a mix and mingle session to help students develop project ideas.

(<u>1-3 hours</u>) Our ongoing **Research Club** sessions will then meet on the first Monday of each month (October, November, December, February, and March) from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. We would like each mentor to attend one or two of these meetings to be available.

(<u>Variable</u>) For students doing projects in your subject field, plan to be available via email or possible Zoom connections for short consults, questions, and advice.

If you are willing to consider this opportunity, or would like to ask questions, please let me know! I can be reached by email (rmcguire@msu.edu), or office (989-374-9903) or cell (417-862-1626) phone numbers.

Finally, please feel free to forward this information to others you know who might be interested in volunteering for this opportunity. We would love to build capacity and increase our base of expertise to help guide our next generation of scientists. Thank you!

### ACS Spring 2026 Abstract Submissions Are Now Open! – Deadline September 29 *Vickie Langer, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a pair of National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated August 11, 2025, and updated August 28, 2025.



This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and globally from March 22-26, 2026.

Deadline to Submit Abstracts: Monday, September 29, 2025

### Interested in Presenting in Atlanta at ACS Spring 2026?

Presenting at ACS Spring 2026 during oral and poster presentations connects you to ACS's 30+ program divisions. ACS Divisions offer a unique opportunity to network and collaborate with chemists in your area of specialization. Submit your abstract today to advance your career goals and position yourself as a leader in the chemistry community.

<u>ACS Spring 2026</u> is your chance to connect with your peers in your division and to share your research with the chemistry community. Visit the website to learn more about the symposia that are open and to submit your abstract.

### Interested in Presenting Digitally?

The ACS Spring 2026 Digital Meeting was designed to give you access to a global stage. Present your research to a diverse audience that will be tuning in from around the world, specifically to hear about your discoveries and research in chemistry. Submit your abstract for a chance to advance your career and position yourself as a leader in chemistry under one of these digital meeting programs: Global Virtual Symposium, Division Technical Session, and Graduate Student Asia-Pacific Symposium.

Here are three great reasons to share your work by submitting an abstract for the digital meeting:

#### 1. Career Advancement and ACS Division Connection

The digital meeting connects you to **ACS's 30+ technical divisions.** Submitting your abstract under the <u>Division</u> <u>Technical Session Program</u> will allow you to dive deeper into your area of expertise in chemistry and to expand your network.

### 2. Position Yourself as a Leader in Chemistry

One of the most unique aspects of the ACS Spring 2026 Digital Meeting is that it **provides access to a global stage.** Presenting your research at the <u>Global Virtual Symposium (GVS)</u> allows you to be recognized by your peers from around the world as a leader and pioneer in research.

### 3. Career Growth Opportunities

Graduate Students, showcase your latest research by submitting your abstract for the Graduate Student Asia-Pacific Symposium. This opportunity provides those living in the Asia-Pacific region with the chance to gain valuable experience presenting to large, international audiences on a digital platform – a skill you will need as you grow in your chemistry career.

Submitting your abstract to be a part of the <u>ACS Spring 2026 Digital Meeting</u> is the first step in the process of connecting to the ACS global community. This is your chance to be among some of the top leaders in chemistry.

**Submit your Abstract Today!** 

Abstract Submission Deadline: Monday, September 29

### Answer to the Second R,S-Puzzle Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

No one submitted the correct answer, **S**, to the second **R,S**-Puzzle which was to give the correct designation, **R** or **S**, for the starred carbon atom [*The Midland Chemist*, **2025**, *62*, No. 7 (July), p 11]:

The solution to this puzzle is similar to the solution for the first puzzle (*Ibid* p. 10). The starred carbon is bonded to one hydrogen atom and three carbon atoms (alpha).

Thus, the hydrogen atom, having the lowest priority, is automatically the lowest priority, fourth, of the four atoms or branches attached to the starred carbon. We must go out at least one more atom, beyond the three alpha carbons, to determine the first three priority branches.

$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
0 \\
1 \\
4 \\
H
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
2 \\
4 \\
H
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
3 \\
4 \\
H
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
C \\
4 \\
H
\end{array}$$

Branch 1 has oxygen attached to one of the three alpha carbons. Oxygen, having a higher priority than carbon, makes branch 1 higher priority than branches 2 and 3. Branch 2 has two carbons attached to an alpha carbon which gives branch 2 higher priority than branch 3 which has only one carbon attached to the alpha carbon. As drawn on the left side, the hydrogen atom of priority 4 projects in front of the plane of the page. To determine the **R** or **S** configuration the hydrogen atom must project behind the plane of the page. To achieve this the molecule must be rotated 180° to give the structure on the right. The order of the branches from 1 to 3 is in a counterclockwise manner, which is the **S** configuration. Note that one of the cyclobutane carbon atoms is used twice in this analysis.

### Third R,S-Puzzle Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

Here's a chance to review your nomenclature skills in the third **R,S**-Puzzle. What is the correct designation, **R** or **S**, for the starred carbon in the following compound? Again, the authors who reported this compound have given the incorrect designation for this atom.

Send your answer to me at <u>w.dilling@att.net</u>. The correct answer and first person with the correct answer will be reported in an upcoming issue of *The Midland Chemist*. Only one answer per person. Good luck.



### SVSU Dow Visiting Scholar Seminar, October 8 Stephanie Brouet, Department of Chemistry, Saginaw Valley State University

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, there will be a Dow Visiting Scholar event at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) featuring Dr. Erich Uffelman as the seminar speaker. He is an inorganic chemist who specializes in using advanced spectroscopic techniques to uncover images beneath famous artworks and explore other chemical processes related to art.

Dr. Uffelman's seminar, titled *Scientific Adventures with Art History and Cultural Heritage*, will be presented in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall on the campus of SVSU, on October 8, at 6:30 PM. An expanded, detailed biography of Dr. Effelman is provided on Page 14. For more information or any questions, please reach out to Stephanie Brouet at <a href="mailto:sbrouet@svsu.edu">sbrouet@svsu.edu</a>.



The past 20 years have seen a revolution in non-invasive methods for examining cultural heritage, transforming art history and art conservation. This talk will provide many examples of how we can understand artists' intent, artists' techniques and issues of attribution using various scientific techniques.

Dr. Erich Uffelman is internationally recognized for his work in cultural heritage science by applying advanced scientific techniques to the study of paintings, prints and historical objects. His research on Dutch masterpieces and pigment analysis has made him a leading voice in the field. Uffelman obtained a Bachelor of Science from Bucknell University. He obtained an NSF Fellowship to attend the California Institute of Technology, receiving his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Caltech. Uffelman joined the chemistry faculty at Washington and Lee University in 1993, and in 2014 he was named the University's Bentley Professor of Chemistry.



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall



SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services. SVSU will, provide reasonable accommodation for those persons with disabilities. Individuals who wish accommodation should contact The Conference Center at SVSU at 989,9644348 at least three days prior to the need.

### **Expanded Biography for Dr. Erich Uffelman:**

Dr. Uffelman works at the intersection of analytical chemistry and cultural heritage science, making significant contributions to both chemistry and the scientific study of art using instrumentation which is relevant to the field of physics. His work has influenced conservation practices, art authentication, and materials science in the interdisciplinary field of chemistry and art. Dr. Erich S. Uffelman has been a Bentley Professor of Chemistry at Washington and Lee University since 2014 and served as the Department Head of Chemistry & Biochemistry from 2019 to 2023. Recognized for his commitment to education, he has received four Excellence in Teaching Awards from W&L, along with the prestigious Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award in 2009. His dedication to mentoring students is evident in his extensive research guidance, having trained over 100 undergraduate students in scientific investigation. His research efforts have been supported by NSF and private foundation grants exceeding \$1 million, enabling advancements in both scientific instrumentation and interdisciplinary studies. He has authored over 50 peer-reviewed papers and patents, spanning inorganic chemistry and cultural heritage science.

In the field of art conservation science, Dr. Uffelman has made significant contributions to the technical examination of 17th century Dutch paintings, pioneering research that integrates chemistry, art history, and conservation science. His expertise in portable spectroscopy and imaging techniques, including X-ray fluorescence (XRF), infrared (IR), and hyperspectral imaging, has included studies at world-renowned institutions such as the National Gallery of Art, Mauritshuis, Rijksmuseum, and Smithsonian. His leadership in the field is further highlighted by his role as Co-Vice Chair (2026) and Co-Chair (2028) of the Gordon Research Conference on Cultural Heritage Science.

Dr. Uffelman's international research collaborations extend across important institutions, including Winterthur Museum, the Getty, and the Guggenheim. His expertise in pigment degradation research has been instrumental in studies on cadmium yellow fading in Matisse's paintings, shedding light on the chemical processes affecting modern artworks. Additionally, he has contributed to the NSF-funded Chemistry in Art Program (2005–2017) as a consultant and educator, helping to bridge the gap between scientific analysis and art preservation.



STEM Connect: Meet the Experts Event, October 10 Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

I'm reaching out to share an exciting opportunity for high school students interested in STEM careers. The ACS Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) is organizing an outreach event for high school students to connect them with industry experts from various fields — including R&D scientists, business leaders, and manufacturing experts. The goal is to showcase the diverse career paths available in STEM and give students a chance to hear directly from people working in these areas.

We would appreciate it if you could share this information with the high school and undergraduate students in your family/network. Please also feel free to forward this information to teachers, staff, or clubs who might be open to sharing it more broadly.

• Date: Friday, October 10, 2025

• **Time:** 3:30 – 5:30 PM

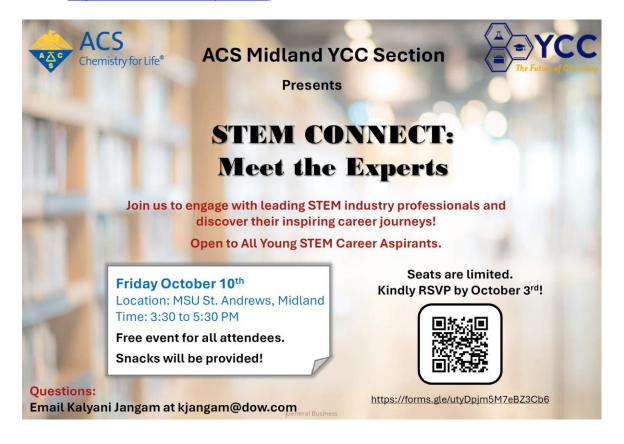
Location: MSU St. Andrews, Midland

• Audience: High school juniors and seniors (parents are welcome to attend, too), also

undergraduate students from local colleges.

• **RSVP:** Use the QR code or link provided in the flyer below.

For more information or any questions, please reach out to Kalyani Jangam (<u>KJangam@dow.com</u>) or Alejandro Hernandez (alejandro.hernandez@dupont.com).





### Whiskey Pull Project SEED Fundraiser – Call for Donations Hunter Woodward, Director, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section ACS is organizing its first ever series of "whiskey pull" fundraiser events in which each purchased ticket will earn the holder a random bottle of whiskey from a selection of bottles. About half the bottles are rare bottles collected by our team over time, and about half of them will be donations from friends of the Midland Section ACS. We hope to use the funds from this event to support our 2025 Project SEED efforts. Please contact Michelle Rivard at <a href="mailto:project-seed@midlandacs.org">project-seed@midlandacs.org</a> to donate a bottle. Bottles can be big or small and of any monetary value, so long as they are unopened. All donations are appreciated, so please consider purchasing a bottle or looking in the back of your cabinets!





# Donations will provide paid summer research experiences for economically-diverse high school students



supplies, and safety equipment.

Fundraiser Dates: Details coming soon!

Fundraiser Locations: EverNorth, 3 Bridges, and more... Details coming soon!

Let's raise a glass to opportunity, equity, and the future of science. Thank you for your support!

CONTACT
MICHELLE RIVARD
PROJECT-SEED@MIDLANDACS.ORG

**ACS Project SEED** is a long-running initiative by the American Chemical Society that provides economically disadvantaged high school students with hands-on summer research experiences in chemistry-related fields.

Students work in academic, industrial, or government labs under the mentorship of professional scientists, gaining exposure to real-world research and career pathways. The program also offers scholarships, virtual camps, and professional development, aiming to broaden access to STEM education and careers. The Midland Section ACS's local Project SEED efforts have been recognized nationally for its positive influence, sponsoring about a dozen students each summer.

### Highlights of 2025 Project SEED Graduates Rowan Katzbaer, Project SEED, Midland Section ACS

August marked the conclusion of another successful summer of Project SEED. Supported by the Midland Section ACS and partner universities, the high school students in the program get to spend their summer diving deep into impactful research. A few of the 2025 Project SEED graduates share their experiences and plans for next year below:

### **Sophie Carroll** – Chippewa Hills High School

Sophie worked on filtering specific molecules out of contaminated water with polymers. This included learning to use a planetary ball mill and dynamic light scattering instrument. The project was mentored by Dr. Anja Mueller at CMU. Sophie is going to Michigan Technological University to pursue a computational biology degree.



"As of now, it is my dream to help integrate technology with biology within the biotechnological field."

### **Camden Murphy** – Heritage High School

Camden researched an approach to produce bio-acrylic acid from corn under the mentorship of Dr. David Proctor at SVSU and Dr. William Kruper at MSU St. Andrews. Camden plans to attend Delta College for an associate's degree in science and then transfer for a degree in chemical engineering.



### Jonathan Ameh – Heritage High School

Jonathan investigated textile anti-odor technology analysis using gas chromatography, comparing the amounts of absorption on different textiles. This project was under the mentorship of Dr. Daniel Henton and Dr. William Kruper at MSU St. Andrews. Jonathan intends to major in chemistry and minor in studio art at the University of Kentucky.

"I hope to become an analytical chemist for an art museum so I can both challenge myself and express creativity."



### 2025 National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest – The Hidden Life of Spices Hannah Bailey, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an Illustrated Poem Contest for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Write and illustrate a poem using the National Chemistry Week (NCW) theme – The Hidden Life of Spices.

### Contest Deadline: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Gift Card and prizes for all 1st and 2nd place winners in each grade category!

For more information or questions, contact: <u>HannahBailey@dow.com</u>

This contest is open to anyone in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Winners of the Midland Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the National ACS website and to win additional prizes!



Visit <u>Illustrated Poem Contest – National Chemistry Week – American Chemical Society</u> for complete information and submission rules.

Send your poems and submission forms to Hannah Bailey at <a href="https://hannahBailey@dow.com">HannahBailey@dow.com</a> no later than Sunday, October 26, 2025. Thank you.



### Pizza and Pumpkins Outreach Event, October 28 Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS



Midland Section ACS Volunteer Appreciation Event Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

### **ACS Volunteer Appreciation Save the Date**

HONORING VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEN: NOVEMBER 3RD, MONDAY

6:30 PM-7:15 PM- BOARD MEETING

7:15 PM ONWARDS- APPRECIATION EVENT

WHERE: ST. JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), October 12-14 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a pair of National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated July 3, 2025, and updated September 11, 2025.



### **Midwest Regional Meeting**

October 12 - 14, 2025 | Columbia, Missouri

The University of Missouri Local Section will host <u>MWRM 2025</u> from Sunday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 14. Don't miss this opportunity to present your research, connect with leading minds, and contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas that defines MWRM. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

The city of Columbia is akin to a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz, and an engaged community. We are a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities. Columbia offers picturesque parks, clever cuisine, amazing art, and superb shopping, in addition to several local coffee roasters and breweries. Several popular neighborhoods are adjacent to campus, including The District, The North Village Arts District, and The Arcade District.



Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 16-17 Dale LeCaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS, and General Meeting Chair, CERM 2025

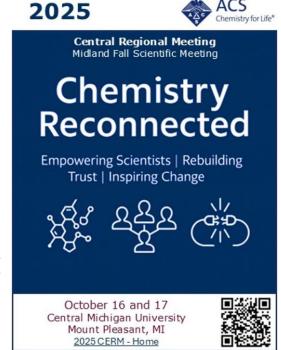
Meeting Theme – Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World

Location - Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

Date and Time – Thursday, October 16, 1:00 PM to ?? through Friday, October 17, morning, afternoon, and evening (tentative)

For More Information – Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, Central Michigan University, <a href="lecap1dj@cmich.edu">lecap1dj@cmich.edu</a>. See also <a href="https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/">https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/</a>.

The 2025 Central Regional Meeting (CERM) of the American Chemical Society will be held in Mount Pleasant, MI, on the campus of Central Michigan University on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17. This year's meeting theme, *Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World*, highlights the power of collaboration, innovation, and community in the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.



In a time marked by social fragmentation, misinformation, and growing challenges to scientific integrity, *Chemistry Reconnected* serves as both a call to action and a source of empowerment. This year's joint Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025) and the Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM) invites scientists across disciplines – chemists, engineers, educators, and students – to come together in restoring trust, strengthening community, and championing the role of science in society.

Chemistry is more than molecules – it's a force for connection, truth, and change. Let's reconnect science with society – and empower scientists to lead that transformation.

Possible program topics – Artificial Intelligence and Chemistry, Member Education, and Chemistry Reconnected: A Call to Action. Poster sessions will also be part of the joint meeting's programming.

Abstracts for posters are currently being accepted through the American Chemical Society portal. Accepted papers will be abstracted and published by the ACS.

Volunteer Session Leaders are needed. Please contact Dale LeCaptain at lecap1dj@cmich.edu. Thank you.

### Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025), October 16-17 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated September 11, 2025.



# Central Regional Meeting October 16 - 17, 2025 | Mount Pleasant, MI

The **Central Regional Meeting 2025 (CERM 2025)** of the American Chemical Society is proudly being hosted by the Midland Local Section at Central Michigan University. This year's theme, "**Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists | Rebuilding Trust | Inspiring Change**," emphasizes the vital role of collaboration, innovation, and community in advancing the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and meaningful opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.

CERM 2025 welcomes **poster presentations only** across all areas of chemistry, which will be organized into thematic categories based on submitted topics. Poster sessions will be held during the late afternoon on both Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17, providing excellent opportunities for networking and scientific exchange.

The deadline to submit an abstract is Monday, September 15. Submit an Abstract

### **Registration Is Open**

CERM 2025 is free to attend, but registration is required for all participants.

### Friday, October 17, Highlights at CERM 2025:

Join us from 12:30 to 1:30 PM for the **ACS Governance Reception**, featuring **Dr. Caroline Ribes** from the ACS Board of Directors. Later in the evening, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM, don't miss the **Project SEED Fundraiser**, which will include a lively bourbon raffle to support future chemists. It's a great chance to connect, contribute, and celebrate the spirit of chemistry!

### **Special Ticketed Events:**

- Thursday Evening, October 16: Dinner presentation featuring Dr. Sam Gregson, particle physicist at the University of Cambridge and CERN, and award-winning science educator and entertainer \$40; \$25 for students with a valid ID.
- **Friday Evening, October 17:** Brewery gathering with pizza and live music by Socially Distant, performing rock and blues from Alanis to Zeppelin, scientists by day, musicians by night \$12.

### **Learn More and Register**

### Joint Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025), October 26-29 Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a pair of National ACS email communications to all ACS members, dated July 1, 2025, and updated September 11, 2025.



### **Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting**

October 26–29, 2025 | Orlando, FL

The Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting 2025 (<u>SERMACS/SWRM 2025</u>) will be held from Sunday to Wednesday, October 26-29, 2025, and will be hosted by the American Chemical Society Orlando Local Section.

SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be the first time the conference has returned to Florida in nearly 30 years. The Orlando Local Section of ACS is organizing this meeting and is excited to showcase the robust and exciting southeastern scientific community and the unique contributions Florida makes to the chemical enterprise!

Additionally, SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be a joint meeting, held concurrently with the Southwest Regional Meeting of the ACS. This meeting will feature scientists from across the southern United States, from California to Florida! SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be larger than the average regional meeting as a result, providing even more opportunity for valuable engagement between sponsors and attendees. The 76th Southeastern and 81st Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

<u>Visit the website</u> to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

### **Keynote Speakers**

### **Plenary Lecture**

Chemists at NASA: from Environmental
Studies and Instrumentation Development to
the Chief Technologist

Sunday, October 26, 5:15 PM



Kathleen Loftin, PhD
Academic Research Program Manager
NASA

### **Heritage Lecture**

Reflections on an Analytical Chemistry
Career (mostly) in the U.S. DOE National
Labs

Tuesday, October 28, 5:15 PM



Gregory Eiden, PhD
Laboratory Fellow
Idaho National Laboratory

### Workshops

### Sunday, October 26

9:00 – 11:00 AM -- ACS Career Pathways: Working for Yourself: Your Idea, Your Business, and Your Marketing Strategy

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM -- *NMR – Live Demo, Data Collection, and Problem Solving* (Organized by Magritek Inc.) 1:00 – 4:00 PM -- *Chemical Patents Workshop: Intellectual Properties for Chemists* (Organized by Ram Sabnis)

### Monday, October 27

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM -- ACS Summit: Industry-Academia Summit on Preparing Chemists for the Private Sector (Organized by Michelle Brooks)

### Tuesday, October 28

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM -- Career Pathways in Pharmacy (Organized by Vicki Mody & Yujin Kim) 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM -- Probabilistic Environmental Risk Assessment of Emerging Contaminants 1:00 – 4:00 PM -- Analytical Frontiers in Microplastics Monitoring (Sponsored by Shimadzu)

### In Memorium – Ralph Gordon Czerepinski Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: Ralph Czerepinski's obituary notice as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Saturday-Sunday (Weekend), July 26-27, 2025, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Ralph joined the American Chemical Society in 1962 and at the time of his passing he was a 63-year member of the ACS.



Ralph Gordon Czerepinski, 84, of Midland, MI, died on July 12, 2025, at Candlestone Assisted Living, in Midland. He was born in Madison, WI, on September 24, 1940, to Henry and Ruth (Edwards) Czerepinski. Ralph attended Madison East High School before studying Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and remained a proud Badgers and Packers fan. He received his PhD in rocket fuel oxidizer chemistry from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Ralph met the love of his life, Donna Monteith, in the Chemistry building at the University of Wisconsin. When they began dating, Donna firmly told Ralph that they were not allowed to kiss in the Chemistry building, a rule which Ralph promptly disregarded. They were married on September 14, 1963, and honeymooned in the

car on the drive to the University of Washington for Grad School. On the way, they stopped at a pizza & beer establishment which refused to serve them because Donna was not yet 21, even when they said, "... but we're married!" Despite this initial hardship, they persevered. Ralph and Donna brought three children into the world in three different states. Much later, they welcomed eleven grandchildren, and even later, two great-granddaughters, and were awaiting a great-grandson at the time of Ralph's passing.

Ralph worked as a Research Scientist for the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, MI, working in polymer science until his retirement in 2001. In addition to his love of Chemistry, he loved mathematics, astronomy, geology,

computers, and science fiction. Ralph was an expert on local mushroom identification and enjoyed camping, owning at one point two VW vans, requiring his children to learn to drive one of them. He spent many years as a part-owner of the Midland Computer Shoppe and enjoyed letting his computers run overnight to calculate and visually display fractal mathematics equations. He also was very active in his church community, leading Lay Speaking courses and singing with the Chancel Choir at Aldersgate Church, in Midland.

While his fight with Alzheimer's took many of those things away from him in his later years, it could not take away his love for Jesus and his confidence in his eternal home with the Father. Ralph was preceded in death by his son, Scott Czerepinski, and is survived by his wife, Donna, his children, Kelly (Daniel) Harman and Kim (Dale) Anderson, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ralph's memorial service was held at 11:00 AM on Monday, August 4, 2025, at Aldersgate Church, 2206 Airfield Lane, in Midland. His family received friends at the church on Monday, August 4, 2025, from 10:30 AM until the time of service. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider Aldersgate Church or the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter.

All of us at Ware Smith Woolever Funeral Home (1200 West Wheeler Street, Midland, MI 48640-2891, Phone: 877-631-2292, <a href="www.wswfh.com">www.wswfh.com</a>) are honored that the Czerepinski family has entrusted us with the care of their loved one.

### **Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates**

- September 8 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>September 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link</u>, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7. Please note: This Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.
- September 15 Deadline to submit abstracts for CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific
  Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Meeting theme: Chemistry Reconnected:
  Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World. See the articles on pages 21-23 for more details. For more
  information or any questions, please contact Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, at
  lecap1dj@cmich.edu.
- September 20 (1:00 2:00 PM) Midland Section ACS Outreach *Super Soaker* program, dealing with the properties of super absorbent (diaper) polymer, Bay County Historical Museum, 321 Washington Avenue, Bay City. For more information, please contact Gina Malczewski at <a href="mailto:reginamalczewski@gmail.com">reginamalczewski@gmail.com</a>.
- September 20 (2:00 4:00 PM) MSU St. Andrews Research Club Kick-Off event, seeking subject matter experts to serve as mentors for middle and high school students helping them prepare for the Flint Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March 2026. For more information, please see the article on pages 8 and 9 and reach out to Robin McGuire, Science Educator at MSU St. Andrews, in Midland. She can be reached by email (rmcguire@msu.edu), or office (989-374-9903) or cell (417-862-1626) phone numbers.
- September 27 (9:00 AM 3:00 PM) Skills Beyond the Bench: A Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist, a
  STEM careers learning, case study exercise, poster session, and networking opportunity event with
  industrial scientists, University of Michigan (Flint). The program is free, and refreshments and lunch will be
  provided for registered guests. Registration is required by September 19. For more information, please see

- the flyer on page 6. For any questions, contact Kim Dinh (kdinh@dow.com) or Jessica Tischler (jtisch@umich.edu).
- September 27 (9:00 AM 3:00 )PM) Seeking mentors for A Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist program, University of Michigan (Flint). To sign up or for any questions, contact Kim Dinh (kdinh@dow.com) or Isabel Meza (mmeza1@dow.com). See the flyer on page 7 for more information.
- September 29 **Deadline for submission of abstracts for ACS Spring 2026.** For more information, please see the article on pages 9 and 10 or click on **ACS Spring 2026**.
- October 6 (6:15 7:00 PM) Midland Section ACS Meet & Greet event for 2026 election candidates to
  interact with current officers and board members, ask questions, and gain insight into the governance
  structure of the Midland Section ACS, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person only).
- October 6 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at October 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- October 8 (6:30 8:30 PM) SVSU Dow Visiting Scholar seminar event, Scientific Adventures with Art History and Cultural Heritage, Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Saginaw Valley State University. Speaker Dr. Erich Uffelman, Bentley Professor at Washington and Lee University. For more information, please see the article on pages 13 and 14. For any questions, please reach out to Stephanie Brouet at sbrouet@svsu.edu.
- October 10 (3:30 5:30 PM) STEM Connect: Meet the Experts event, a program for high school juniors and seniors and undergraduate students from local colleges to get them introduced to and interested in STEM careers, MSU St. Andrews, Midland. For more information or any questions, please see the article and flyer on pages 14 and 15 or reach out to Kalyani Jangam (KJangam@dow.com) or Alejandro Hernandez (alejandro.hernandez@dupont.com).
- October 12-14, 2025 (Save the Date) Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), hosted by the University of Missouri Local Section ACS, Columbia, MO. For more information, please see the article on page 20.
- October 16-17, 2025 (Save the Date) Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Meeting theme: Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World. See the articles on pages 21-23 for more details. The deadline to submit abstracts is September 15, 2025. For more information or any questions, please contact Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, at <a href="mailto:lecaptaic.com/lecaptaic
- October 20 November 10 (Please Note) Midland Section ACS Board of Directors 2026 Election period.
  Please watch for the slate of candidates in the October 2025 issue of the Midland Chemist. For more information or any questions, please contact Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee, at RBouZerdan@dow.com.
- October 24 (4:00 7:00 PM) Midland Section ACS Frankenstein Friday outreach program, Rowe Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. For more information or any questions, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- October 26 Deadline for 2025 National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest submissions on the theme, The Hidden Life of Spices. For more information or any questions, please see the article and flyer on page 18 and contact Hannah Bailey (<a href="HannahBailey@dow.com">HannahBailey@dow.com</a>). Visit <a href="Illustrated Poem Contest">Illustrated Poem Contest National Chemistry Week American Chemical Society</a> for complete information and submission rules. When completed, please send your poems and submission forms to Hannah Bailey (<a href="HannahBailey@dow.com">HannahBailey@dow.com</a>).
- October 26-29, 2025 (Save the Date) Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). This meeting is being hosted by the Orlando Local Section of the ACS. The meeting location is DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. For more information, please see the article on pages 23-25 or visit the meeting website at <a href="SERMACS/SWRM 2025">SERMACS/SWRM 2025</a>.

- October 28 (6:00 7:30 PM) Midland Section ACS *Pizza and Pumpkins* outreach program, Griswold Center, St. John's Episcopal Church, 405 North Saginaw Road, Midland. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Free event but limited to the first 50 guests. To sign up, go to <u>Pizza and Pumpkins</u>. For more information, please see the flyer on page 19 or contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- November 3 (6:30 7:15 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at November 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7. Please note: The start time for this Board meeting has been advanced 30 minutes from its usual 7:00 PM start time to 6:30 PM to accommodate the follow-up Volunteer Appreciation event the same night.
- November 3 (7:15 ??) Midland Section ACS Volunteer Appreciation event, honoring our volunteers for their invaluable contributions, St. John's Episcopal Church, 405 North Saginaw Road, Midland.
- December 1 (7:00 8:30 PM) Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at <u>December 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link</u>, Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- March 22-26, 2026 (Save the Date) ACS Spring 2026 National Meeting & Exposition, Atlanta, GA. This
  meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see the article on
  pages 9 and 10 or click on <u>ACS Spring 2026</u>. Please note: The deadline for abstract submissions is
  September 29, 2025.

**The Midland Chemist** is published twelve times a year by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, P.O. Box 2695, Midland, MI 48641-2695, <a href="http://www.midlandacs.org">http://www.midlandacs.org</a>. Current and past issues are available at midlandchemist.org.

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Please submit all articles and photographs to the editor at <a href="newseditor@midlandacs.org">newseditor@midlandacs.org</a>. Neither *The Midland Chemist*, nor the Midland Section, nor the American Chemical Society assumes any responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors of or to *The Midland Chemist*.

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