

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST



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

October Featured Speaker: Doug Raber

Doug Raber, CSW Past-President, will speak at the October dinner meeting on October 14th at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant. His talk is entitled, "Chemist to Novelist: A Description of the Transition States."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Michigan, Raber spent 20 years on the chemistry faculty at the University of South Florida. In 1990, he moved to Washington, D.C., as Director of the Board on Chemical Sciences & Technology at the National Academy of Sciences, where he directed studies on topics ranging from chemistry R&D to forensic analysis of bombings and the use of technology to combat terrorism. He is a sought-after consultant in science policy arenas.



Chemist to Novelist: A Description of the Transition States

My talk will describe the circuitous pathway that led an academic research scientist to become a celebrated novelist. It may or may not describe who is celebrating.

There are many similarities between my career and a set of chemical reactions. Some of the steps along the path resemble unimolecular processes with first-order kinetic behavior, but at least one step can clearly be shown to be bimolecular—a two-body process that has demonstrable second-order kinetics.

An alternative title for the talk could be "How to Become a Novelist Without Even Trying." I will nevertheless explain how it all came about, and I will attempt to answer a basic question: what happens when a scientist changes to fiction?

The talk will also illustrate nontraditional career pathways that will be of interest to the audience. Examples will include specific techniques to follow (and a few to avoid).

Dinner Meeting Details

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6pm (dinner at 7pm, presentation at 8pm)

Where: Alfio's La Trattoria (4515 Willard Avenue Chevy Chase, MD 20815)

Cost: \$26.00 Members & guests, \$13 Students

Menu: Choice of entrée: veal parmigiana, veal piccata, eggplant parmigiana, broiled filet of flounder, or chicken francese. All will be served with penne alla marinara, chef salad, fresh vegetables, bread and butter, and dessert.

Reservations: Make reservations by Friday, October 10, 2014, 12:00 noon, to the CSW office: csw@acs.org or 202-659-2650. Please designate the names in your party and your choice of entree. The public is invited to attend. You may attend the talk only, but reservations are appreciated. Those who make a reservation, but are unable to attend, should send a check for the cost of their meal to the CSW office.

Parking/Metro: Alfio's offers free valet parking and is located 4 blocks from the Friendship Heights metro station (red line).

Volume 64, Number 7

October 2014

Featured Items:

- Learn about the candidates running for CSW offices (page 3)
- Volunteer for National Chemistry Week Activities (page 5-6)
- Learn more about the Project SEED summer research projects (page 6)
- The Retired Chemists Group is holding a luncheon on October 21 (page 2)

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79th Retired Chemists Group Luncheon on October 21

Featured Speaker

Dr. Jason E. Schaff, Forensic Toxicologist, Chemistry Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory

Dr. Jason Schaff, Forensic Toxicologist in the Chemistry Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, will speak at the 79th Retired Chemists Group Luncheon meeting on October 21st at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant. His talk is entitled, "The Real Science of Forensic Chemistry: What CSI Doesn't Show You."



Speaker Biography

Dr. Schaff has worked for the last fifteen years as a forensic toxicologist with the Chemistry Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory. There he analyzes a wide variety of specimens submitted by various federal, state, and local agencies, supporting investigations of product tampering, drug-facilitated sexual assaults, public corruption, suspicious deaths of U.S. citizens overseas, and various other crimes. Dr. Schaff received a B.S. in chemistry in 1991 from Yale University and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1997 from the University of Minnesota. After completing his doctorate, he spent two years on a fellowship at the Indiana University Medical Center developing methods of analysis for anabolic steroids in an International Olympic Committee-accredited drug testing laboratory.

Abstract, "The Real Science of Forensic Chemistry: What CSI Doesn't Show You"

Despite the almost mystical cachet that certain popular TV shows have tried to bestow upon the forensic sciences, forensic chemistry is the sound application of analytical chemistry to real world problems. It is, however, a rather different application of the science than is found in a typical industrial or academic laboratory, and requires a very different mindset than more "traditional" chemical professions. While the academic community tends to place highest value upon novelty and elegance in its work, forensic chemistry assigns the utmost importance to robustness. When someone's liberty, livelihood, or possibly even life is at stake, a forensic chemist needs to be performing an analysis, not an experiment. In contrast to the typical industrial environment, a forensic chemist often cannot predict the subject of the next analysis: yesterday was an unknown white powder to be identified, today is a urine sample to be analyzed for drugs that might have been used to incapacitate a rape victim, and tomorrow could be a moldy ham sandwich to be analyzed for poisons! This means that forensic chemists need to be well-versed in a wide array of analytical technologies, and must be able to quickly adapt proven methods to new types of samples. This lecture will provide an overview of the practice of forensic chemistry, showing the differences, both for better and for worse, between reality and the fantastical images put forth by popular media. Attendees will learn about the wide variety of disciplines and technical specializations within forensic chemistry and will see how the full array of modern analytical technology can be brought to bear on questions relevant to legal proceedings, both civil and criminal.

Luncheon Meeting Details

When: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 11:30am (social at 11:30am, lunch at 12:15pm, speaker at 1:15pm, meeting at 2:15pm)

Where: Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant (4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD)

Cost: \$24.00 per meal

Menu: Entrée choices: (1) Breast of Chicken Dorati, (2) Veal Piccata, (3) Veal Parmigiana, (4) Broiled Filet of Flounder, (5) Eggplant Parmigiana. Your entrée selection will be served with house salad, bread, beverage, and ice cream.

Reservations: Please send your menu selection(s), along with a check made out to Retired Chemists Group for \$24 per meal, to Dr. Jerome McDonald, 19636 Olney Mill Road, Brookeville, MD 20833 (Tel: 301-570-4865) to be received by Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

Parking/Metro: Alfio's offers free valet parking and is located 4 blocks from the Friendship Heights metro station (red line).

Science Coach *noun*

A chemist who partners with an elementary, middle, or high school teacher to enhance students' science education throughout one school year.

Example of SCIENCE COACH:

- ACS donates \$500 to each school where a science coach volunteers.

Enrollment is now open for the 2014-15 academic year.

To learn more, visit www.acs.org/sciencecoaches.



2014 Electronic Voting Procedures

Contributed by Kathryn Hughes, Elections Committee Chair

The Chemical Society of Washington will conduct its election of Officers, Councilors, and Managers with electronic ballots. If you are a full CSW member and have a valid e-mail address on file with The American Chemical Society, then on or about October 11 you will receive an e-mail with instructions for accessing the secure voting website and candidate statements, along with a unique voter ID code. The ballot will be sent to the same e-mail address at which you receive official communications from ACS. If your e-mail account has strong spam filters, please “white list” elections@vote-now.com and election.ballot@vote-now.com in order to ensure that you receive your voter ID code. If you haven’t provided an e-mail address to ACS, fear not—anyone without an e-mail address on file, or whose ballot e-mail is returned as undeliverable, will receive a paper ballot with voting instructions and candidate statements. Candidate statements will also be posted on the CSW website (csw.sites.acs.org) on or about October 11. As in previous elections, voting will close at 11:59 pm on November 15. Just click, read, and vote! Even better—if you, like many of us, are chronically absent-minded, you will receive two reminder e-mails if you have forgotten to cast your ballot. If you haven’t voted in prior CSW elections, please take this opportunity to do so, and help shape the future direction of CSW. If you have questions about the new voting process, or if you do not receive a ballot by October 21, please contact us at csw@acs.org.

CSW Elections: Candidates

President-Elect

Dennis Chamot
Richard Goodman

Treasurer

Robert Wiacek

Manager

Svetla Baykoucheva
Greg Brewer
Phillip DeShong
Wesley Farrell
Joseph Houck
William Trenkle

Councilor

Christopher Avery
David Carrillo
Regina Cody
Chris Hollinsed
Monika Konaklieva
Ajay Mallia
N. Bhushan Mandava
Matthew Windsor
Stefanie Wittenberg

Candidate Statements can be found on the CSW website at <http://csw.sites.acs.org/chapter.htm>.

Call for Nominations for Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest

The Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest is one of the most prestigious awards provided by the Northeastern Section of the ACS, and recognizes a chemist whose scientific and technical work has contributed to the public well-being, thereby communicating positive values of the chemical profession.

The award consists of a medal and a check for \$5,000, and will be presented at the April meeting of the Northeastern Section in Cambridge, MA.

Nominations are due by October 15th.

More information can be found on the ACS Northeastern Section’s Website: http://www.nesacs.org/awards_esselen.html.

Happy
Mole Day!
October 23, 2014



Join the CSW Younger Chemists Committee for a
Mole Day/Halloween Celebration!

When: Mole Day! (10/23/14) at 6:30pm

Where: University of Maryland, College Park

RSVP to csw@acs.org by noon on 10/20/14. Contact Ajay Mallia (vajaymallia@gmail.com) for more information.

Younger Chemists Committee News and Events

Contributed by Dr. Ajay Mallia and Dr. Deana Jaber, YCC-Chair

Science Café Held September 15th

CSW (YCC and RCG) and DC science writers association collaboratively organized a Science Café entitled, "A Chemist's View of Cultural Treasures" with Dr. Barbara Berry, Head of the Scientific Research Department at the National Gallery of Art, on September 15, 2014. At the event, Dr. Berry explained how laboratory instruments helped to discover the makeup of rare yellow and green pigments in the portrait *Madonna and Child* by Florentine master Giotto. The Science Café was facilitated by experienced science communicator, Mr. Ivan Amato. After the event, the audience actively engaged in a question and answer session.



Clockwise from left: left, Dr. Barbara Berry explaining about pigments in *Madonna and Child*; Dr. Kathryn Hughes, CSW president; Mr. Ivan Amato; Participants enjoying the event.

Last Chance! Hillebrand Prize Nominations Due October 15

Nominations are invited for the 2014 Hillebrand Prize, awarded annually for "original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the CSW." 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. This is a great opportunity to recognize the contributions of your local peers to the field. 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. Many previous Hillebrand Prize recipients have gone on to win numerous other national and international awards, including three who have received the Nobel Prize. More information about the history of the prize, along with a list of previous awardees, can be found here: <http://csw.sites.acs.org/hillebrand.htm>.

The nomination letter must be limited to 1000 words. Two seconding letters may be sent, limited to a maximum of 500 words each. The package should also contain a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and a proposed citation of not more than 25 words. The nomination package should be submitted by email, preferably as PDF files, to csw@acs.org. Nominations will be active for three years. In accordance with the CSW Standing Rules, both the nominee and the nominator must be current members of CSW, but this restriction does not apply to writers of seconding letters. 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 October 15, 2014. The awardee will be announced early next year, and the Prize and \$2000 honorarium will be presented at the CSW dinner meeting in the spring of 2015.

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Tuesday, October 7, 2014

- 6:00 pm ET **Networking**
- 7:00 pm ET **Webinar**
- 7:30 pm ET **Live Q&A**

Speakers:

Douglas Dollemore,
ACS Office of Public Affairs

Darcy Gentleman,
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Celebrate National Chemistry Week: “The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy!”

Candy...How sweet it is!!! This year, we celebrate the chemistry of candy and confections. We all love a sweet treat, but rarely do we discuss the chemistry involved. Whether it's hard candy, chocolate, or taffy, the sugars and ingredients within undergo a transformation in its properties that result in the delicious treats we enjoy.

Each year, the American Chemical Society's (ACS) National Chemist Week (NCW) campaign reaches millions of people with positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to their daily lives. NCW is a community-based annual event that unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. It is the one time during the year that chemists, regardless of background, unite with the common goal of spreading the word that chemistry is good for our economy, our health, and our well-being.

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW), along with the ACS Office of Community Activities, is planning several NCW events. Volunteers are needed for these outreach activities. Mark your calendar now, and plan on joining us at an event, or plan one yourself.

You can contribute to the NCW campaign by performing chemical demonstrations at a neighborhood school (or consider having an illustrated poem contest); conducting hands-on activities with children at museums, malls, or libraries; or writing articles or letters to the editor of your local paper. If you would like to lead an activity at your local school or library, CSW will provide you with some grade-specific materials to hand out to the students, as well as some simple demonstrations that you can use.

More information about local activities will be posted on the CSW web site (<http://csw.sites.acs.org>) as they become available. For further information, or to volunteer, contact the CSW NCW coordinator, Kim M. Morehouse, via e-mail at Kim.Morehouse@FDA.HHS.GOV, or by phone at 240-402-1889 (day) or 301-384-7311 (evening).

NCW at the John Eaton Elementary School Block Party

On Saturday, October 18, 2014, The ACS Office of Community Activities will once again be participating in the annual block party at John Eaton Elementary School (3301 Lowell Street NW) in the Cleveland Park Neighborhood of Washington, DC. The event runs from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm with setup starting at 10:30 am. Volunteers will be assisting with hands-on activities for the children who attend and handing out NCW themed publications and goodies. The two activities that we have planned are “Sour Candy Surprise” and “Floating Letters.”

NCW at the Family Fun Festival in Crystal City

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, CSW will once again be participating in the Family Fun Festival event in Crystal City, Arlington, VA in conjunction with the Marine Corp Marathon, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (setup starting at 8:00 am). Volunteers will be performing hands-on activities for the children in attendance and handing out NCW themed publications and goodies. We will be performing the “Sour Candy Surprise” and “Floating Letters” activities at this event as well. You do not need to be at the event the full time; just let us know what times you would be available to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these events, please contact the CSW NCW Coordinator, Kim Morehouse, via e-mail at Kim.Morehouse@FDA.HHS.GOV, or by phone at 240-402-1889 (day) or 301-384-7311 (evening).

NCW 2014 Illustrated Poem Contest

Each year as part of National Chemistry Week (NCW) activities, the American Chemical Society (ACS) sponsors an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten – 12th grades. Schools are encouraged to have a contest within the school as part of their classroom studies and submit one entry per grade category. CSW will be sponsoring a local NCW Illustrated Poem contest. The National illustrated poem contest is focused on “Where’s the Chemistry?” Participants are encouraged to explore topics related to the chemistry of candy and confections—like the physical properties of candy, sugar vs. alternative sweeteners, ingredients in candy, and candy making. Write and illustrate a poem using the National Chemistry Week theme, “**The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy!**” Your poem can be in any style as long as it is **no more than 40 words**. All entries must be received by the local NCW coordinator no later than Monday, October 27, 2014. Entries should be mailed to the NCW Coordinator at the CSW office (1155 16th Street, NW, O-218, Washington, DC 20036). Winning entries from each grade category will be forwarded to the ACS for the national competition and will receive a local section award as well. Additional information on the contest, as well as NCW, is available on the ACS web site (www.acs.org/ncw).



Don't Miss “The Secret Life of Food” at the National Press Club

ACS member and biochemist Shirley Corriher, whose cookbook has won the James Beard Award, combines humor and cooking know-how to explain the science behind food preparation. She will appear with Susan Delbert, Executive Chef of the National Press Club. Sample delicious appetizers specially prepared for this event, along with a glass of wine, sangria, or beer and learn the secrets of how the treats were prepared. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 22 at 6:00 PM at the National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW. The event is open to the public, with \$15.00 advance registration required. Register at <http://www.press.org/events/secret-life-food>.



Chemical Society of Washington

Project SEED Research Symposium

October 18, 2014 at 10am
Marvel Hall, ACS Headquarters



-  *Congratulate the 2014 Project SEED fellows*
-  *Watch the SEED fellows present their summer research*
-  *Learn the history of Project SEED*

RSVP to csw@acs.org by noon on October 15

For more information, contact the CSW Project SEED committee chair, Dr. Ajay Mallia (vajaymallia@gmail.com) or CSW (csw@acs.org)



Project SEED Writing and Presentation Workshop Held in August

Contributed by Dr. Ajay Mallia, CSW Project SEED Chair

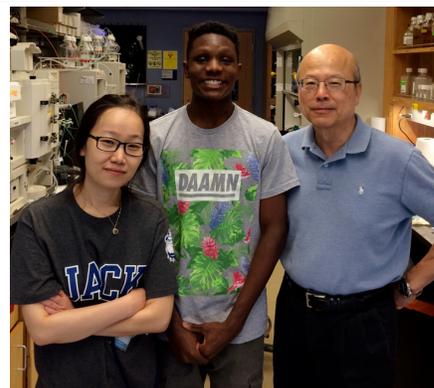
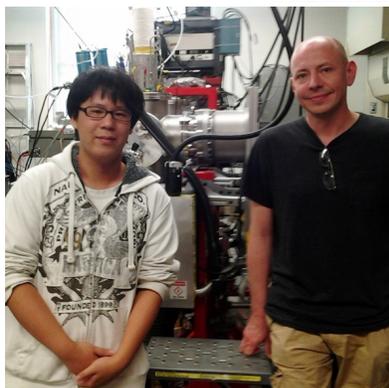
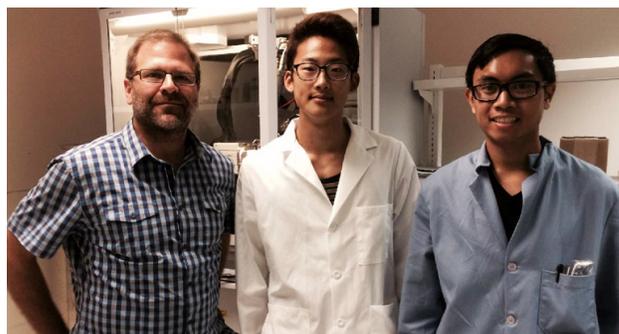
CSW's Project SEED committee organized a scientific writing and presentation skills workshop for the Project SEED fellows on August 23, 2014. Dr. Ajay Mallia, Chair of the CSW Project SEED Committee, welcomed the Project SEED fellows and talked about the Project SEED symposium to be held on October 18, 2014, where all the Project SEED fellows will give a short research talk and present their research during a poster session. Dr. Walter Benson, former Project SEED chair; Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed, Project SEED mentor from NIST; and Dr. Ajay Mallia taught the students skills in scientific writing, presenting research, and giving poster presentations. The participants enjoyed the event and actively participated in the discussion and question answer session.



Top image: Dr. Walter Benson teaching the students about scientific writing. Bottom image: Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed's session on "how to successfully deliver a 3-minute research talk."

Project SEED Fellows (Continued From Last Issue)

Clockwise from right: Professor Travis Holman (mentor, Georgetown University), Mr. Joshua Yoo (fellow), and Mr. Joseph Ramirez (student mentor); Professor David C. H. Yang (mentor, Georgetown University), Mr. Kishawn Love (fellow), and Ms. Bok-Eum Choi (student mentor); Professor Vladislav Sadtschenko (mentor, George Washington University), and Mr. Ta-Chung Mou (fellow); Professor Rodrigo Maillard (mentor, Georgetown University) and Ms. Kaitlyn Marsh (fellow).



Project SEED Needs Your Support!

Project SEED cannot operate without the help from individuals and companies that support the Scientists-in-training. Are you interested in supporting Project SEED? Last year we unfortunately turned away many applicants because of lack of funding. CSW has established the Noel Turner Memorial Fund to help support Project SEED. Your donation will be used for student stipends (\$2500 for the SEED-1 and \$3000 for the SEED-2 program). Your contribution is fully tax deductible. For more information contact the CSW Project SEED chair, Dr. Ajay Mallia (vajaymallia@gmail.com) or CSW (csw@acs.org, 202-659-2650).

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ACS National Meeting News: Councilor Talking Points

The following are highlights of the Councilor Talking Points, distributed at the ACS National Meeting held in San Francisco in August 2014. The full document can be found at <http://csw.sites.acs.org/chapter.htm>.

Reports of Elected Committees (Highlights)

Nominations and Elections (N&E)

N&E announced the candidates for the fall 2014 ACS national election as follows:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2015

- Peter K. Dorhout, Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Chemistry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- William A. Lester, Jr., Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- Donna J. Nelson, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2015-2017

- Dawn A. Brooks, Sr. Director, Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN
- William F. Carroll, Jr., Vice-President, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX
- Barbara A. Sawrey, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, and Dean of Undergraduate Education, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
- Ellen B. Stechel, Deputy Director, ASU-LightWorks, Tempe, AZ, Arizona State University

Candidates for District III Director, 2015-2017

- Pat N. Confalone, Confalone Consulting, LLC, (Retired DuPont), Wilmington, DE
- Anne S. DeMasi, Hazard Communication Manager, Chemtura Corporation, Philadelphia, PA

Reports of Society Committees and Committee on Science (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F)

B&F reviewed the Society's 2014 probable year-end financial projection which calls for a Net Contribution from operations of \$14.4 million, or \$752,000 higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$497.2 million. This is \$1.1 million or 0.2% unfavorable to the Approved Budget. The projected shortfall is primarily driven by lower-than-budgeted Electronic Services, Registration Fees, and Advertising revenues. Total expenses are projected at \$482.8 million, which is \$1.9 million or 0.4% favorable to the Approved Budget. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across multiple categories primarily in the Society's information services divisions (CAS and Publications). The Probable 1 projection was developed using May 31 actual financial results. Based on more recent information through July, management believes this projection will be exceeded.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

CEPA announced that the unemployment rate for all ACS chemists has dropped from 3.5% in March 2013 to 2.9% as of March 2014. However, the unemployment rate for new chemistry graduates as of August 2013 is considered to be an all-time high of 14.6%. The number is higher when we isolate bachelor's level graduates, for whom the rate is 15.8%.

Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)

M&E reported that 11,847 papers were accepted for the 248th National Meeting in San Francisco. As of August 13, total attendance was 15,761. The Exposition had 432 booths with 285 exhibiting companies. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors the following sites for National Meetings:

- Boston – Fall 2024, 2029, 2031
- San Diego – Spring 2025, 2031, and Fall 2027
- New Orleans – Spring 2027, 2032
- Chicago – Fall 2022

Membership Affairs (MAC)

MAC reported that as of June 30, the total ACS membership was 158,869, a net increase of 512 since May of this year. The number of international members has grown this year by 312, to almost 25,000. The number of current, unpaid members declined in June and is 13% lower than June 2013. As of July 1, automatic renewal (on credit card) became available. The Committee also voted to extend its current test of an introductory membership offer to those who join the Society at non-ACS conferences and events to include the graduate students and potential Regular Members who attend ACS on Campus events worldwide each year.

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- www.mboservices.net
- <http://membership.acs.org/W/WashDC/career.html>

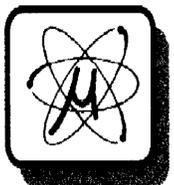
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Claims for missing issues should be sent to CSW at the above address. Member change of address should be sent to ACS, PO Box 3337, Columbus, OH 43210; phone 800-333-9511; e-mail: service@acs.org; or edit member profile online at www.acs.org.
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The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 4,000 members.



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2014 Officers

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President-elect

Alan Anderson, Bowie State University

Secretary

Jennifer Young Tanir, ILSI Health and
Environmental Sciences Institute

Treasurer

Stefanie Wittenberg, United States Patent
and Trademark Office

CSW Calendar of Events

October

- 10/14: CSW Dinner Meeting
- 10/15: Hillebrand Nominations Due
- 10/15: Esselen Award Nominations Due
- 10/17: "Speaking Simply" (YCC Event)
- 10/18: Project SEED Research Symposium
- 10/18: Cleveland Park Block Party (Volunteer Opportunity)
- 10/19-10/25: National Chemistry Week
- 10/21: Retired Chemists Group Luncheon
- 10/22: "Secret Life of Food" Event at National Press Club
- 10/23: Mole Day!
- 10/26: Family Fun Festival (Volunteer Opportunity)
- 10/27: NCW Illustrated Poem Deadline

November

- 11/15: CSW Elections Voting Closes at Midnight

December

- 12/1: Board of Managers Meeting