

THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN

Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society Newsletter



Chicago Section Program (In Person)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 NOON-3:30 PM

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Schiller Park, IL



Lessons Learned in My Career and ACS Journey

Dr. Katherine L. Lee

ACS Board Director, District 1

The lecture is free and open to the public. See next page for details.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ABSTRACT

ACS has been an integral part of my life as a chemist, starting in my first year of graduate school. Now, over 30 years later, in this talk I will reflect on my career in the pharmaceutical industry and how ACS has been part of this journey.

MEET THE SPEAKER

Katherine L. Lee is an expert in drug discovery, including structure-based and fragment-based drug design; a leader in portfolio strategy and business operations; and a strategic and scientific advisor on small- and large-molecule programs, most recently at Pfizer, Inc., in Cambridge, MA. She earned a B.S., summa cum laude, with Distinction in Chemistry, from Yale University and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at MIT before completing a postdoc at the University of Texas at Austin. Her career in the pharmaceutical industry includes several years leading teams in medicinal chemistry and small-molecule drug discovery, as well as in strategy and operations. Katherine has been District I Director on the American Chemical Society Board of Directors since 2019.

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APRIL PROGRAM (In-Person)

MARCH PROGRAM AGENDA

| | |
|----------|---|
| 12:00 PM | Buffet Luncheon |
| 1:00 PM | Presentation by Dr. Lee |
| 2:00 PM | Recognition of our 50-, 60-, and 70-Year ACS Members |
| 3:30 PM | Program Concludes |

EVENT VENUE

Great Escape Restaurant
9540 W Irving Park Rd
Schiller Park, IL 60176
<https://greatescaperestaurant.com/>
[Directions](#)

FAMILY-STYLE LUNCHEON

Soup of the day, garden tossed salad, mixed vegetables, roasted red potatoes, sliced Italian bread & butter, roast sirloin of beef, broasted chicken, rigatoni with vodka cream sauce, ice cream sundae.
Coffee and assorted soda included.
Cash bar for alcoholic beverages.

COST OF LUNCHEON

\$35 (ACS Members) / \$40 (Non-ACS Members)
\$15 (Students / Postdocs)
No charge for lecture-only attendance.

[REGISTER FOR DINNER HERE](#)

or call (847) 391-9091 or email
chicagoacs-at-ameritech.net

Deadline is Noon on APRIL 22

Take the ACS Chicago Family Feud Survey!



Be part of history by participating in the ACS Chicago Family Feud survey. The answers will be shared at the ACS Fall Meeting in Chicago August 23–27, 2026.



CHAIR'S COLUMN

You might have wondered why my newsletter last month was not dedicated to women chemists and their achievements since March celebrates Women's History Month. However, April celebrates Earth Month with the designated ACS 150th Anniversary theme: Sustainability. So, my message will honor women who seek to fulfill present needs without imperiling humankind's future. Like Mother Nature, women chemists of Chicago protect and enhance our lives, including nurturing and mentoring young women chemists.



A resident of Hull House, Alice Hamilton (below, left) became interested in industrial chemistry as she observed workers overcome by carbon monoxide in the steel mills or poisoned by lead in paint factories. Called the Mother of Occupational Medicine, she pioneered industrial health and safety and encouraged others to join what was considered a woman's career. In 2002 the ACS designated her work at Hull House as a National Historic Chemical Landmark. Her efforts helped lead Congress to pass the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

An industrial research chemist, Hoylande Young's (center) resume includes her studies at Chicago's Toxicity Research Laboratory, where she compiled reports on chemical warfare during World War II and performed editorial work for the Atomic Energy Commission. As the first woman chair of the Chicago Section of the ACS, she mentored chemists by establishing the Distinguished Service Award.

A chemist and the President of Cedar Concepts Corporation, Linda McGill-Boasmond (right) established the first and only chemical manufacturing plant in the United States owned by an African American woman. Her eco-friendly facility produces oils and lubricants for beauty products and Boeing engines. Committed to the wider community, she supports Girls4Science, a program to empower girls to study science.

What on earth are you going to do during Earth Month 2026 to sustain both Nature and future chemists? Why not start by making everyday Earth Day? Share with me your accomplishments so we can celebrate the ACS Chicago Section membership.

—AMY BALIJA



Alice Hamilton



Hoylande Young



Linda McGill-Boasmond

115th Gibbs Medal Award Banquet and Lecture

Friday, May 15, 2026 | 5:30 - 10:00 PM

Meridian Banquets, 1701 Algonquin Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008



The Chicago Section of American Chemical Society is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2026 Willard Gibbs Medal, **Prof. Stephen L. Buchwald**. This award is presented annually to a distinguished scientist who is selected by a jury of esteemed professionals, including past recipients. The selection is chaired each year by the Chair-elect of the Chicago ACS section. His talk title is:

"Pd-catalyzed Carbon-Nitrogen Coupling Reactions: How Did We get Here and Why do We Care?"

Cross-coupling methodology to form carbon-nitrogen bonds is an indispensable part of the everyday repertoire of synthetic organic chemistry. The development of mechanistic schemes for this transformation will be discussed. This methodology has been widely employed throughout academia and industry.

Dr. Giordan Aims for Greater Trust

The Chicago Section hosted another first-rate—and well-attended—program on the evening of March 13, 2026 at Loyola University Chicago. The featured speaker was Dr. Judith Giordan, former ACS President and currently VP and managing director of ecosVC, a venture development and investment firm. Giordan presented a dynamic and thought-provoking talk entitled, “Where Has the Trust Gone: Changing Attitudes in America’s Trust in Science and Scientists.” In contrast with the *scientific* communication of technical data, *science* communication is about informing, educating, and raising awareness of science-related topics among the general public. We need to remember that trust-building is a two-way street, said Giordan. We must also develop a confident mindset for communicating positive messages about science. The American Chemical Society offers [resources](#) to help us counter the decline in trust.

Section Chair Amy Balijs did a masterful job as emcee, including the raffling-off of chemistry themed gifts, with the aid of a clever projected virtual wheel to select the winners. The evening also gave us the opportunity to celebrate several special milestones, including ACS at150, Women’s History Month, and Pi Day.

At the start of the program, Giordan thanked each of the Chicago Section officers by name, and afterwards she expressed her gratitude to the Chicago Section on LinkedIn, writing “Thank you all at the ACS Chicago Section for the invitation and for a great evening!!!! ... See you in August for the Fall ACS meeting!” One participant thanked Judy (on LinkedIn) for highlighting the lower trust in science nowadays among the different age groups, especially in today's environment where social media often overpowers accurate science communication.



Top: Pre-lecture boxed lunch supper in Loyola University's Quinlan Hall. Bottom: Judy in (right) and Amy (left) in action. Below: Virtual wheel with participant names. Photo credits: Ilana Lemberger



Here’s the good news: periods of disruption also create space for reflection, growth, and positive change. In moments like these, we have a powerful opportunity to rebuild trust—starting with science and scientists. – Judith Giordan

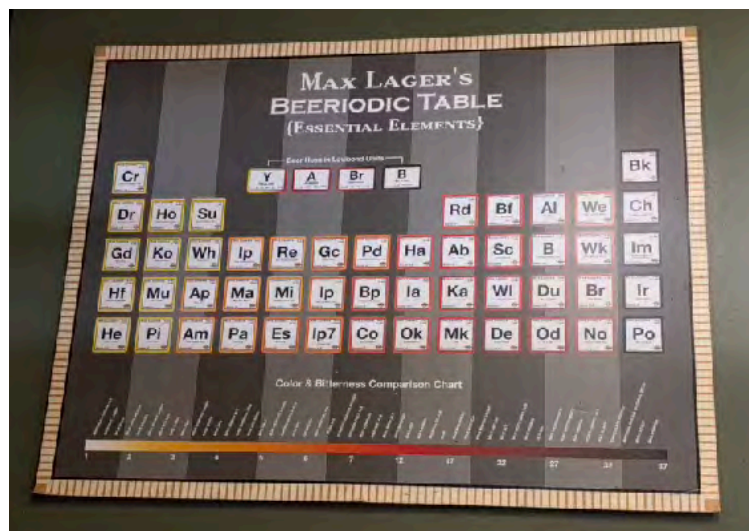
PAST EVENT

Younger Chemists Host Joint Program

The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) of the Chicago Section hosted its first event of 2026, the Younger Chemists Social, at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) on Saturday, March 7th. The gathering was held in partnership with Loyola ChemScholars, also known as LUC Chemistry Scholars. According to their website, [ChemScholars](#) is focused on helping Loyola students ace their chemistry classes. "We're here to give students the support they need to face tough classes with confidence, not fear", says Elhan Martinovic, Founder and President.

The event provided an opportunity for early-career chemists and students to connect with the Chicago Section and build professional networks. The 13 chemists in attendance included both new and returning participants. During the program, attendees were actively networking and making connections with one another on LinkedIn.

—Gowri Kuda-Singappulige
Co-chair, Chicago Section YCC



CHEMISTRY HUMOR



For their next outing the younger chemists will meet at Max Lager's Wood-Fired Grill & Brewery in Atlanta, GA.

April Fool's!

2D or not 2D?

Flat is the question.

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of the outrageous
Limitations of graphene,
Or to take arms against a sea of ordered anthracenes,
And by photoirradiation polymerize them?

C'mon, it's not that Bard...

From the [website](#) of chemist Stuart Cantrill

UPCOMING EVENT

Younger Chemists Dive into Soap



Chicago Section ACS YCC & DePaul
Chemistry Club Present:

THE CHEMISTRY OF SOAP

By Dr. Shelby Hatch

WHEN: SATURDAY, APR 18TH, 4-5PM

**WHERE: DEPAUL STUDENT CENTER, 3RD FLOOR,
2250 N SHEFFIELD AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60614**

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!

RSVP required, deadline is 11:59 April 15th (weds)

RSVP BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE:



<https://tinyurl.com/ycc-chemistryofsoap2026>

Soap image: pexels-mikhail-nilov-7814647

ACS DIVISIONS



ACS Division of Energy & Fuels

MEMBERSHIP
SCAN
& REGISTER



NEW MEMBERS SOUGHT: The Energy and Fuels (ENFL) Division of the American Chemical Society cordially invites new members to join. Watch the 2-minute [introductory video](#).

- *Mission:* To advance energy innovation and education to address the earth's challenges
- *Vision:* Driving a sustainable and equitable energy future

We are also seeking **enthusiastic volunteers** to assist the ENFL Program Committee with the 2026 Fall ACS National Meeting in Chicago. To help coordinate ENFL sessions and activities at the national level, please reach out to Dr. Sajid Liu at sajid.liu-at-tamuk.edu. **Interested in Joining the ENFL Division?** Use this [form](#) or scan the QR code for more information.

Interested in Volunteering?
Get in touch with the Chicago Section by emailing
chair-at-chicagoacs.org

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

The red cityscape below represents a version of the Atlanta “Coca-Cola” themed skyline, as photographed inside the Georgia World Congress Center. The GWCC was the venue for the Spring ACS National Meeting—where signs of the 150th anniversary celebration were all around. Look for weblinks in the next bulletin issue for the recorded lectures of three Nobel laureates—Jennifer Doudna, Mounqi Bawendi, and Omar Yaghi. Be sure to mark May 15 on your calendar for

the 115th awarding of the Willard Gibbs Medal and, if possible, invite a younger chemist to join you. The Chicago Section is fortunate to have on offer top-quality programs, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of our Program, Arrangements, Gibbs, Outreach and Education, and Younger Chemists Committees.

By way of reminder, all are invited to participate in any of the events listed in these pages. If you have an idea for a speaker, program, or other initiative, or if you would like to volunteer, please send a message to chair-at-chicagoacs.org. (For additional contact information see page 12.) Volunteers are especially needed for the upcoming National ACS Meeting in Chicago in August. As with any organization, we are all enriched by the talent and dedication of “new blood.” Thank you for “subscribing” to *The Chemical Bulletin* through your Chicago Section membership. I hope you enjoy this issue. —MARGARET E. SCHOTT



Scenes from Atlanta

Several members of the Chicago Section traveled to Atlanta, GA to attend the Spring 2026 National ACS Meeting, which took place March 21–25 at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) and nearby hotel venues. Atlanta's springlike outdoor environment was a welcome change from chillier Chicago. The enormous size of the convention center, on the other hand, posed a challenge for those traversing between different meeting rooms and lecture halls!



Above: Attendees at the ice cream reception hosted by the International Activities Committee (IAC) including (top row) Past ACS President Mary Carroll (L), Daniela Andrei, and Anita Mehta.



Above: Russ Johnson (L) and a fellow participant at the IAC reception.



Above: The same happy group under the balloon arch after the ACS Council Meeting.



Above: Satomi Niwayama (L), Josh Kurutz, Anita Mehta, Amy Balija, Dan Rabinowitz, and Ana Clara Leal after the ACS Council Meeting.



Below: Signs of spring to cheer Chicagoland chemists.

Bottle Bubble

Introduction:

You may have noticed that gas prices have been going up. It turns out that they always go up in the spring because the gasoline that is provided in the winter is different than the fuel provided at other times of the year. Why? A simple bubble experiment will show us.

Materials:

- Transparent bottle (glass or plastic) – the bottom of it must be able to fit into the bowls of water
- Dish soap (1 tsp with 1 tbsp water – 1 tsp of corn syrup would enhance the strength of the bubble)
- Bowl of hot water
- Bowl of ice water

Safety:

The hot water can come from an electric kettle, microwave oven or even tap water, but care must be taken to avoid getting burned.

Experiment:

Once the dish soap mixture is stirred well, tip the bottle upside down into it and make sure that there is a layer of soap film covering the opening of the bottle. Place the bottom of the bottle into the hot water and see what happens. Then, place the bottom of the bottle into the ice water and notice any changes. You can go back and forth between the containers. If the bubble breaks, simply get a new layer formed by putting it back into the soap mixture.

What's Happening?:

ChemShorts, as recently as [January, 2023](#) showed an experiment very similar to this one. In it we find that as the temperature of the air goes up, the air molecules speed up and as they do so they take up more space. If the molecules take up more space, this will cause the bubble to



force its way up and out of the bottle. Likewise, as the temperature cools, the molecules get closer together and the bubble will be pushed inside the bottle. What does this experiment have to do with cars? A car needs to have a specific amount of gasoline molecules in the combustion chamber, the gas companies put lower boiling point molecules (like cheap butane) into the gasoline mixture in the winter and higher boiling point molecules into the gasoline in the summer.

Extension/Final Notes:

Does the size of your bottle make a difference? Does it make a difference if your water levels are higher or lower?

Resources:

<https://lsc.org/news-and-social/news/bubbles-move>

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a15339380/the-vapor-rub-summer-versus-winter-gasoline-explained/>

To view all past “ChemShorts for Kids”, go to:
<https://chicagoacs.org/ChemShorts>

—PAUL BRANDT

UPCOMING & RECORDED EVENTS

ACS WEBINARS

[Link to Webinar Registration](#)

Apr 9, 2026 | 2:00 PM EST / 1:00 PM CST

“Paving the Way with Plastic:
How Chemistry is Building Roads from
Ocean Debris”

Apr 29, 2026 | 2:00 PM EST / 1:00 PM CST

“SciComm 101: How to Clearly
Communicate Your Science”

Mar 5, 2026 (recorded) | “Navigating Career
Disruption: Reframe, Adapt, Reengineer”

SCRIPPS FRONT ROW LECTURE SERIES

WED 4:00 pm PST / 6:00 pm CST

April 22 “From molecule to medicine: New therapies for
heart disease, cancer, and global health”
with Sean Joseph, PhD

May 20 “Advancing the vision: An experiment in rethinking
the nonprofit biomedical research model”
with Peter Schultz, PhD

Reserve your Zoom seats at: [https://
frontrow.scripps.edu/](https://frontrow.scripps.edu/)

Past lectures may be viewed online.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week | April 19-25, 2026

INTO THE WOODS

WITH CHEMISTRY

Theme: Trees & Forests

[CCEW](#)

This year the Chicago Section tried something a bit different this year for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW). A few volunteers went to a handful of elementary schools to provide activities, supplies and mentoring for the 2026 CCEW theme of “Into the Woods”. Kids were able to do activities about reading tree cookies*, growing your own forest, performing paper chromatography, protecting trees from a fire, recycling paper, etc. Everyone had fun learning about forest-related chemistry. Other activities celebrated the 150th anniversary year of ACS.

The Section is still accepting entries for the Illustrated Poem Contest. See the [online instructions](#) and use the Google form to submit your entry (<https://forms.gle/AUMjp4ga8mBwYJi57>). If you are unable to submit your illustrated poem using the form, you may email it to community-a-chicagoacs.org. Winners will receive gift cards.

In addition, we are working on an event for Navy Pier that will include kids of all ages. Please look for a call-out from the Section for volunteers. More information will be coming soon.

If you have time, please consider taking a walk in one of our beautiful Chicago-area Forest Preserves. You might even think about picking up some litter or volunteering to help prune or clean up areas with invasive species. There are so many things you can do to help the Section bring chemistry to all!

—SHERRI RUKES, Education and Outreach Chair

*For information about this activity, see [Reading Between the Circles](#), an article about the chemistry of tree rings written by Sherri Rukes for [Celebrating Chemistry](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS - CHICAGO ACS SECTION & MORE

PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

- Apr 18 Younger Chemists: "The Chemistry of Soap" (Page 7)
- Apr 25 Senior Chemists Luncheon with Dr. Katherine Lee.
Join us at The Great Escape in Schiller Park to celebrate our 50-, 60-, and 70-year ACS members. (Pages 1–2)
- May 15 [Gibbs Award Lecture & Banquet](#), celebrating medalist Prof. Stephen L. Buchwald of MIT (Page 4)
- Jun / Jul (TBD) Family-friendly event
- Aug 23–27 Chicago Section to host Fall ACS National Meeting of the American Chemical Society at McCormick Place. Mark your calendar AND we need your volunteer help!
- Sept & Oct (TBD) Monthly programs
- Nov 6 Basolo Medal Lecture at Northwestern University, with dinner to follow, celebrating medalist Prof. Kimoon Kim.

For more information please go to <https://chicagoacs.org>.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held virtually over Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to Chicago ACS Section members. To obtain the Zoom link contact: office-at-chicagoacs.org.

2026: Apr 9, May 14, Jun 11,
Aug 7, Sept 13, Oct 8,
Nov 12, Dec 3

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Deadline for bulletin submissions is the **16th of each month**. Content can include photos, reports, past event summaries, flyers and information for upcoming events, original articles, current chemistry, and more. Contact editor-at-chicagoacs.org. Thank you!

April 16th for May issue

May 16th for June issue

FALL ACS NATIONAL MEETING IN CHICAGO AUGUST 23-27, 2026

pexels-amar-saleem-311012.jpg

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