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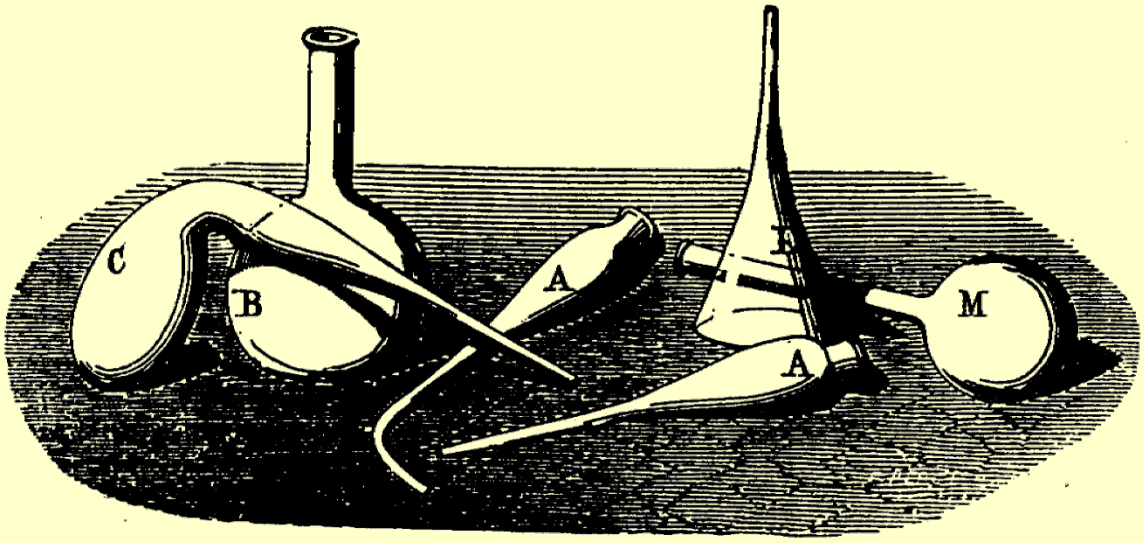
American Chemical Society

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025 ACS National Meeting
Washington, DC
August 17-21

Christine Hahn, Program Chair

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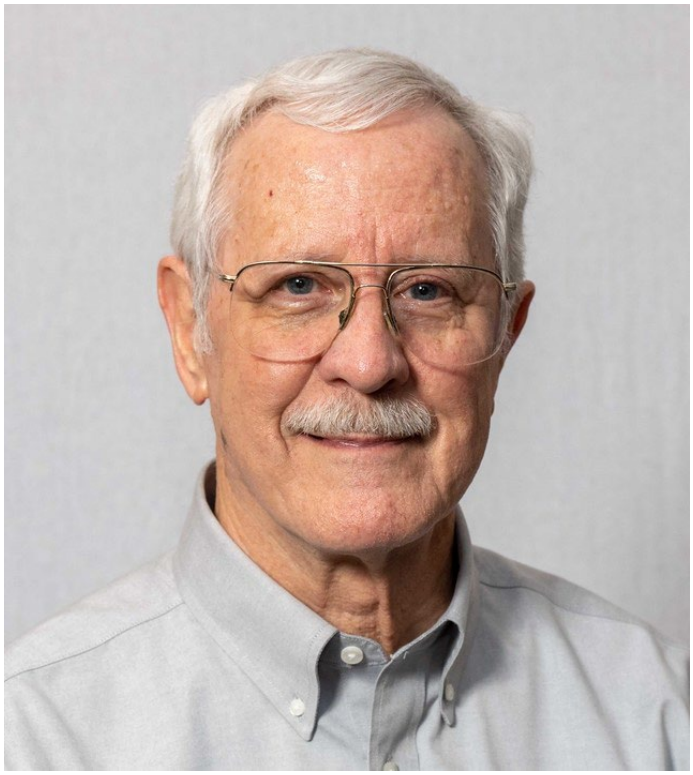
Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, educators, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair



Fall 2025 will be the first national meeting with the new Fall format. There will be no divisional Sunday in-person programs, with divisional sessions beginning on Mondays. There will, however, be broader ACS programming on Sundays. Fortunately, the Spring meetings will continue with the old pattern, so HIST programming will begin on Sunday, March 22 in Atlanta, GA. The fall meeting will be August 23-27 in Chicago, IL, with a repeat of the Sunday pattern this year, unless ACS comes to its senses and reverts to the old pattern. I am not holding my breath.

We are doubly honoring Seth Rasmussen in Washington, DC. As announced earlier, Seth is the recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award. His award symposium will be held Tuesday, August 19 during the fall ACS meeting. Seth has also won the 2024 Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award for the best paper in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry for 2024, 2023, 2022 for his paper, "Edward Frankland and the Birth of Organometallics (1), "*Bull. Hist. Chem.* 49(2) (2024), 111-121. Seth is a Professor of Chemistry at North Dakota State University.

Joe Jeffers and Daniel Rabinovich have been recently named HIST Fellows. They join HIST

Fellows Stephen Weininger, Thomas Strom, Mary Virginia Orna, David Lewis, Joseph Lambert, Ned Heindel, Arthur Greenberg, Carmen Giunta, Ben Chastain, Ronald Brashear, Alan Rocke, Seth Rasmussen, and Vera Mainz. The designation of HIST Fellow recognizes HIST members who have made a significant impact on the advancement of history in the chemical sciences, as well as dedicated service to the division.

ChemHIST Talks is a series drawn from the HIST speakers at the two national ACS meetings each year and are chosen by vote of the Executive Committee. The webinars are typically on a Wednesday, noon, approximately a month after a national meeting. The ChemHIST Talks videos are available on the HIST youtube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@histacs.

We hope to see you at the HIST sessions Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 18-20 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Visit us at the SciMix Division Row on Monday evening. HIST posters will also be available for interaction at SciMix.

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY
COUNCILORS' REPORT
American Chemical Society – Hybrid Council Meeting
San Diego, CA
March 23-27, 2025

A. Election Results:

1. Candidates for President-Elect, 2026

• The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented to the Council the following *nominees* for selection as *candidates* for President-Elect, 2026: Christina Bodurow, Dawn Mason, Sheila Murphy, and John Warner. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Christina Bodurow and Dawn Mason as candidates for 2026 President-Elect.** These two candidates will join any additional candidates selected via petitions to stand for election in the fall 2025 national election.

2. Candidates for Directors for Districts II and IV

• The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District II, and District IV to serve on the Board of Directors for the term 2026-2028. By electronic ballot, the Councilors from these Districts selected **Kimberly Agnew-Heard** and **Mary Engelman** as **District II** candidates and **Lisa Houston** and **Milagros (Milly) Delgado** as **District IV** candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District II and District IV in the fall for election of a Director from each District.

3. Candidates for Directors-at-Large

• The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for **Director-at-Large** for the 2026-2028 term: **Anna Cavinato, Donna Friedman, Malika Jeffries-**

EL, and Will Lynch. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council in the fall.

B. Other Council Actions:

1. Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

• On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), Council voted [Yes 405 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to continue the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals and, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Budget & Finance, Education, International Activities, and Patents and Related Matters.
• On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council voted [Yes 403 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to amend the duties of the Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM) and change its name to the Committee on Intellectual Property (CIP), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This change reflects the committee's mission and vision statements, which refer to "intellectual property" generally rather than elevating patents above other forms of intellectual property.

• ConC announced the opening of the committee preference form to all ACS members began on March 3 and will run through July 3. Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2026 should go to CMTE.acs.org to complete their preferences.
• On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and with the concurrence of the CPC, Council voted [Yes 374 (95.90%) / No 16 (4.10%)] in favor of increasing the number of Councilors on N&E to 19, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. These additional committee members will support the increased workload from the addition of six Zone Councilor slates to N&E's duties.

• On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of new International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Ghana [Yes 383 (96.96%) / No 12 (3.04%)], Ecuador [Yes 389 (97.98%) / No 8 (2.02%)], and Northeast China [Yes 357 (89.70%) / No 41 (10.30%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
• On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 372 (97.13%) / No 11 (2.87%)] to dissolve the Penn/Ohio Border Local Section. This takes effect on January 1, 2026, and members are being contacted about joining neighboring sections.

• On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), the Council voted [Yes 359 (95.48%) / No 17 (4.52%)] to approve the 2026 Schedule of Dues and Benefits, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
• The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of 21-unit bylaws since the fall 2024 meeting. They include 14 Local Sections: Akron, California, Connecticut Valley, East Alabama/West Georgia, Joliet, Kalamazoo, Lehigh Valley, Mississippi, Ole Miss, Orlando, San Gorgonio, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada and South Carolina; three Divisions: Cellulose and Renewable Materials (CELL), Chemistry and the Law (CHAL), and Medicinal Chemistry (MEDI); and four International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Australia, Bangladesh, East and Northeast India, and West India.

• The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) reported on the state of the evolving employment landscape for the chemistry enterprise. ACS Careers programs have seen continued growth and remain a valuable resource for members experiencing career transitions. The updated Professional Employment Guidelines will be up for action at the fall Council meeting. Councilors are encouraged to reach out to CEPA@acs.org for more information on the draft guidelines.

• The Committee on Education (SOCED) reported on their continued efforts to advance chemistry education for all. The ACS Policy Statement on Science Education is currently under revision and the revised *ACS Guidelines and Recommendations for Teaching Middle and High School Chemistry* will be available soon for the upcoming academic year.

2. Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:
- In memory of deceased Past President Attila Pavlath
- In memory of deceased Councilors
- In sincere appreciation of the San Diego Section, host Local Section for the ACS Spring 2025 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

The ACS Spring 2025 meeting was held from March 23-27. As of March 26, there were 15,332 registrations (14,251 in-person and 1,081 online). The ACS Fall 2025 meeting will be held in Washington, DC, from August 17-21, 2025.

3. Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on March 21-22, 2025, in San Diego, CA. The Board considered several key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The meeting opened with a reflection on Inclusion and Belonging.

a. Board Actions

• Upon the recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of the journal *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry*. The appointment will be announced after the individual has been notified and appropriate arrangements for their service have been made.

• Upon recommendation of the Society Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of several ACS journal editors. The reappointments will be announced after the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.

• Upon recommendation of the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve a screened list of nominees for the 2026 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.

• Upon recommendation of the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve a screened list of nominees for the 2026 Priestley Medal.

• The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from the Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.

• The Board approved minutes from the Board Executive Session on December 6-7, 2024, and ratified interim Board actions to approve member appointments for the Board Committee on Executive Compensation for the 2025-2027 term.

b. Board Discussions

• The Board Chair, Wayne Jones, facilitated a discussion about opportunities to increase efficiency and agility and modernize Board operations while ensuring the Society's long-term strategic success. The discussion focused on an ongoing review of the Board's standing committee structure. He also provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss themes emerging from feedback Board members have received from the ACS member community.

• The CEO, Albert Horvath, facilitated a strategic discussion with the Board on a new approach to increase ACS impact through philanthropy.

c. Reports

• The CEO, Albert Horvath, and his staff, reported on organizational updates, financials, and audit results, the 150th anniversary of ACS, rebranding efforts, talent management and other ACS activities. He shared the strong performance of ACS in 2024 and growth across many areas. He highlighted:

- ❍ Strengthening and deepening engagement with our global community

- ❍ Holding virtual annual member gathering, allowing our global members from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America to connect and learn about ACS activities, member benefits, region specific programs, and career-related sessions

- ❍ Increasing the global reach of our ACS journals across all key regions by 24 percent as compared to the prior year

- ❍ Publishing through our more than 90 journals, over 74,000 peer reviewed articles, a 15 percent increase from 2023

- ❍ Delivering 346 million article downloads, up 13 percent over 2023.

- ❍ Releasing the CAS BioFinder platform, marking an expansion of CAS products into the life sciences sector

• The presidential succession shared updates with the Board on their significant activities and initiatives on behalf of the Society and its members.

• The Committee on Budget and Finance Chair, Natalie LaFranzo, reported on the strong financial

position of the organization.

• The Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations Chair, Carolyn Ribes, provided an update on plans for the Board to visit with legislators in June to advocate for science.

• The Committee on Strategic Planning Chair, Will Lynch, assembled a working group of directors to shape the June Board meeting strategic discussion topic.

• The Committee on Professional and Member Relations Chair, Katherine Lee, brought recommendations forward to the Board.

• The Governing Board for Publishing provided updates from the Presidents of ACS Publications and CAS, including the full launch of BioFinder in 2025.

• Written reports were reviewed from the 2024 CEO Initiative Fund, General Counsel, Human Resources, Treasurer, and the Committees on Chemical Safety, Education, International Activities, Minority Affairs, Publications, Senior Chemists, Strategic Planning, and Women Chemists.

C. HIST Councilor

Roger Egolf is serving as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and its Governance subcommittee. This is the subcommittee that looks at petitions coming to Council and reviews the Annual Reports from the Divisions.

Submitted by Roger Egolf

News and Announcements

Awards

2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award

The recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award of the Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society is Seth C. Rasmussen. Professor Rasmussen is a member of the faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. The HIST Award is for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry and is international in scope. This award is the successor to the Dexter Award (1956-2001) and the Sydney M. Edelstein Award (2002-2009), also administered by HIST.

The HIST Award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for $1500 and will be presented to Professor Rasmussen at the Fall National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC, in August 2025. Additional information about the award can be found in the Spring 2025 Newsletter as well as on the HIST website at:

http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/hist_award.php

Submitted by Vera Mainz

2024 Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award

Seth C. Rasmussen of North Dakota State University is the recipient of the 2024 Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award for "Edward Frankland and the Birth of Organometallics (1)," *Bull. Hist. Chem.* 49(2) (2024), 111-121.

Seth Rasmussen obtained his B.S. in Chemistry from Washington State University in 1990. He obtained his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Clemson University in 1994, with thesis "Synthesis and Design of Conjugated Organic Metallopolymers Containing Ruthenium Chromophoric Units" working with John D. Petersen. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow (1995-1997) and an Instructor at the University of Oregon from 1997-1999. Seth joined North Dakota State University in 1999 and became a full Professor in 2012. He spent his first sabbatical leave (2018) in Australia as a Fulbright Senior Scholar with the Centre for Organic Electronics in Newcastle. He is very active in the Divisions of the ACS that deal with polymers, and with his local Section.

Seth's time at the University of Oregon allowed him to develop his interests in the history of chemistry, including its incorporation in his teaching. He joined the HIST division in 2000 and was soon giving papers at meetings. His first paper presented to HIST was in 2004 at the Anaheim ACS Meeting: "Advances in 13th Century Glass Manufacturing and Its effect on Chemical Progress." Seth's interest in glass remains strong and he has become a recognized expert in the history of glass. He has also contributed to the use of history in the teaching

of chemistry and gave his first talk on this topic in 2004 at the 18th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education. Seth has become a prolific presence at HIST meetings ever since his first presentations.

Seth has served the HIST Division with distinction since 2008, when he became the Program Chair. His term, until 2017, was characterized by a high level of organization, a great broadening of both the number and scope of the papers, and an example of inter-Division cooperation. One of his greatest achievements was the establishment of the *Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry* book series, of which he is the Series Editor. It has resulted in a great increase in both the number and quality of books published in America on the History of Chemistry. Most recently, he served as Chair of the HIST Division (in all three versions) from 2019-2024. In 2025, Seth received the Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry (see above).

Seth Rasmussen is now uniformly respected in the worldwide community of the history of chemistry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, an ACS Fellow, and was one of the second cohort of HIST Fellows. He serves on editorial and advisory boards of journals and represents HIST on various international bodies in the history of chemistry.

Seth's first paper to appear in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* was the written form of the talk he gave in 2004: Vol. 33, No. 1, 28-34 (2008). He has since written 10 more papers and one book review for the *Bulletin* and qualifies as the most prolific of *Bulletin* authors in the 21st century.

Seth previously won the 2018 OPA for his paper "Cuprene: A Historical Curiosity Along the Path to Polyacetylene," Vol. 42, No. 1, 63-78 (2017). The paper concerns the product of the polymerization of acetylene under various conditions. It is an exhaustive chronicle of the many attempts to both synthesize and characterize the products of this reaction. The moniker "cuprene" was acquired when copper or copper oxide were used as a catalyst under high temperature conditions. The paper contains a fascinating figure of the final product that was chosen as the cover figure for Volume 42, Number 1. The colored product was a highly crosslinked hydrocarbon sheet. Once the original polymer was initiated, the temperatures were sufficient to promote further reactions with newly activated acetylene. In addition to the demanding historical research necessary for this topic, Seth has added his modern knowledge of the chemistry of polymerization. He compares the result to polyethylene which can be prepared in a "low density" form that is highly branched due to further reactions of the system after initiation of the reaction.

In addition to his work in glass and polymers, Seth has a longstanding interest in organometallic chemistry. It was thus a natural choice to write a historical biography and scientific evaluation of the work of Edward Franklin (1825-1899) in this currently recognized paper. Seth always digs deep and finds the full scope of a historical subject. He cites and analyzes the early work of Cadet, a Parisian apothecary, on "fuming arsenical liquid." Eventually Robert Bunsen achieved both understanding and full characterization of this early organometallic compound. Berzelius also contributed to the research and named the substance cacodyl.

The realities of lower-class life in England made Franklin's early life challenging, but he was blessed by a position with Lord Lyon Playfair, one of the greatest scientists in England. Another member of Playfair's laboratory was Herman Kolbe, who had obtained his Ph.D. under Bunsen. The two eager chemists also returned to Bunsen's lab for more work. This led to an appointment at Queenwood College in Hampshire. When Frankland returned to Bunsen's lab, he brought a sealed tube containing a reaction between zinc and ethyl iodide. Further work led to a Ph.D. from Marburg in 1849. Frankland then worked with Liebig at Giessen. He extended his work on zinc compounds, which led to his appointment as Playfair's successor at Putney and soon to Owens College in Manchester in 1851.

Seth's contention that Frankland should be viewed as "The Father of Organometallic Chemistry" is centered on the following figure:

Hydrogen series.	Methyl series.	Ethyl series.	Butyl series.	Valyl series.	Amyl series.	Phenyl series.
ZnH	$Zn(C_2H_3)^*$	$Zn(C_4H_5)^*$	$Zn(C_6H_7)$	$Zn(C_8H_9)$	$Zn(C_{10}H_{11})$	$Zn(C_{12}H_5)$
AsH_2^*	$As(C_2H_3)_2^*$	$As(C_4H_5)_2$	$As(C_6H_7)_2$	$As(C_8H_9)_2$	$As(C_{10}H_{11})_2$	$As(C_{12}H_5)_2$
SbH_3^*	$Sb(C_2H_3)_3$	$Sb(C_4H_5)_3$	$Sb(C_6H_7)_3$	$Sb(C_8H_9)_3$	$Sb(C_{10}H_{11})_3$	$Sb(C_{12}H_5)_3$
PH_3^*	$P(C_2H_3)_3^*$	$P(C_4H_5)_3$	$P(C_6H_7)_3$	$P(C_8H_9)_3$	$P(C_{10}H_{11})_3$	$P(C_{12}H_5)_3$

Figure 6. *Frankland's table of known (*) and predicted alkyl species relative to the parent hydrides (36a).*

Frankland soon expanded on this family of compounds, coined the term *organometallic* in 1852, and developed both forms of transmetallation, a fundamental reaction of organometallic chemistry.

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Obituary

James Marshall

5/19/1940-3/28/2025

Dr. James L. Marshall, son of Madison Lincoln Marshall and Irene VanEman Marshall, native of Denton, TX, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2025, at age 84. He earned his B.S. in chemistry at Indiana University in 1962, and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Ohio State University in 1966. The following year Dr. Marshall joined the Department of Chemistry at the North Texas State University (now University of North Texas, UNT). At UNT he was involved in conformational analysis utilizing carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance coupling constants. During the early 1980s Dr. Marshall spent six years at Motorola, Inc., Ft. Worth, where he developed the laboratory facilities for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program. In 1987 he returned to the University of North Texas where he conducted materials research, and in the 1990s he initiated research in chemical history.

His research at UNT has resulted in over 250 publications, including a reference book on NMR, and several books on the history of chemistry and laboratory chemistry. At UNT Dr. Marshall served as Director of Industry-University Cooperative Research Center, Director of the Center for Materials Characterization, and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. He also taught countless students to love chemistry. Always the jokester, he would ingest maple syrup disguised in a motor oil bottle or drink liquid nitrogen, always to catch his students' attention and show them learning is fun. Students loved Jim in class, and he also was chosen as an Honor Professor by The UNT Student Association for 1988-1989 school year, a "Top Prof" by Mortar Board in 1989, and an Outstanding Faculty Member by Sigma Phi Epsilon in 1995.

Dr. Marshall has served as Chairman of the Dallas-Ft. Worth Section of the American Chemical Society, and during the period 1995-2003 was Managing Editor of The Southwest

Retort, an ACS publication of the Southwest Regional. He has served as an ACS national tour speaker for many years. He married his late wife Virginia R. (Jenny) Marshall in 1998, he and his wife developed an extensive work, "Rediscovery of the Elements," and in 2010 completed their work and prepared a DVD describing their travels and the results of their research. Their research received international acclaim, for example being reviewed in Nature (2005, 436(25) 1082-1083) and their work also won “Best Paper Award” in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry in 2004.

Dr. Marshall has created the only collection of elements in the world that contains not only all the natural elements, but authentic samples of minerals from the original sites that he and Jenny collected over the 16 years of their collaboration, viewable with explanations through his You Tube site https://www.youtube.com/@rediscoveryoftheelements5753.

Service to the ACS and chemical research was recognized by his inclusion in the 2011 class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society. He retired from UNT in 2017 as an Emeritus Professor and continued his extensive writings on the history of the chemical elements. In August of 2024, he, along with his late wife Jenny, received the American Chemical Society Lambert Award for his outstanding achievements in the history of chemistry for their work on the Rediscovery of the Elements.

The project on the Rediscovery of the Elements resulted in a massive archive produced by all the modalities of the modern historian. The original work was published as a series of articles in *The Hexagon*, the official journal of the professional chemistry fraternity Alpha Chi

Sigma. The first one was: "Rediscovery of the Elements: Tellurium and Faţa Băii (Fascebanya), Romania," James L. Marshall and Virginia R. Marshall, *The Hexagon of Alpha Chi Sigma*, 91, No. 3, Fall, 43-45, (2000). The last one was: "Rediscovery of the Elements. The Alchemical Journey. Part 3." J. L. Marshall and V. R. Marshall, *The Hexagon of Alpha Chi Sigma*," 112(1), 10-13, (2021). More than 50 articles in all were published. In order to make the full corpus more available, the Marshalls produced a DVD containing photographs and maps of the discovery sites. The initial version was published in 2010; it has since been updated and is now available as a third edition (2021) that can be accessed on the internet at:
https://sites.chemistry.unt.edu/~jimm/REDISCOVERY%206-10-2021/

As Jim often said, "And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it." — Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist; and the universe conspired to allow him and Jenny to achieve the Rediscovery dream.

Among his many hobbies included bird studying, flying, and hiking, and he was an avid naturalist. James was an active flight instructor (private; instrument; twin) for decades, and among his students are included American Airline pilots. James has hiked the Grand Canyon several times, including all the way twice - once with his son Cristopher. In his high school and college years, he was active in music – he was First Chair tuba in the state of Alabama, 1957 and 1958; and during the years 1959-1960 he was the tuba player in the Charlotte Symphony in North Carolina.

Dr. Marshall was preceded in death by his fourth wife, Jenny Marshall, and two siblings, Drs. William and Ernest Marshall. He is survived by his sister Dr. Madilyn Fletcher and his two heartbroken children, Cristopher Marshall. M.Ed. and Dr. Pamela A. Marshall (to whom he instilled his love of science), their spouses (Cindy Marshall and David Lelsz) and three amazing grandchildren, Griffin Marshall, Garyn Marshall, and Stephanie Lelsz.

To update on what is currently going on with the Rediscovery of the Elements: Dr. Pamela Marshall's brother Cristopher inherited the element and mineral collection and is planning an interactive display in his home. Dr. Pamela Marshall inherited the website and updated his YouTube channel with high-definition videos. They had only been in low definition, so this is a big improvement. They all have appropriate ADA compliant captions as well.

She also is doing the final update for the Rediscovery website and making sure all the Hexagon articles are there and how to share the most recent Walking Tour items. She is hoping this will be completed by the end of the year 2026.

Finally, Dr. James Marshall wanted to convert it into a book. The book mostly should have all the information James and Jenny gathered and synthesized over the years somewhere physical for future historians and chemists, as the website will go away eventually.

If anyone in HIST who would like to assist with any of these projects or just helps to think through what the book would look like, it will be appreciated; please contact:

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HIST News

From the HIST Historian's Desk

The year 2025 has been busy for the Historian. The symposium on 18th century chemistry in San Diego was a resounding success. A special issue of the Bulletin in currently in preparation based on this topic.

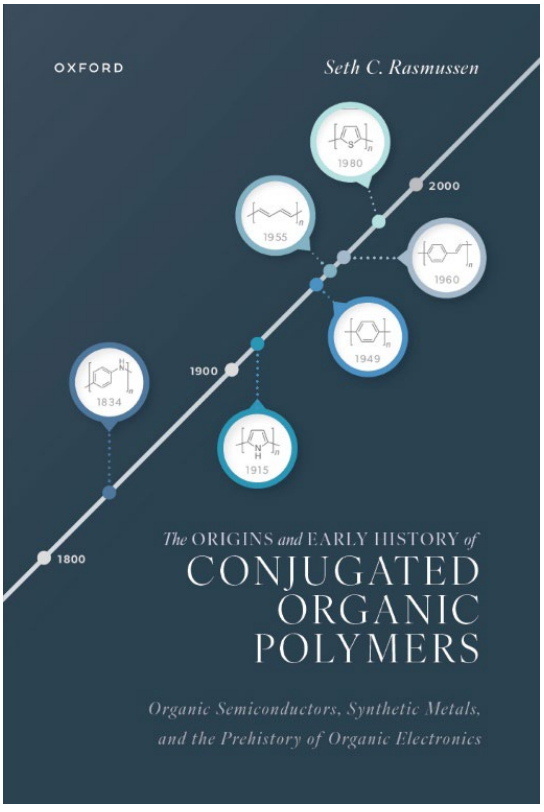
One of the world sites of chemical history is Cambridge University. Hasok Chang chairs the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science. The HIST Historian is a regular participant in the seminar series AD HOC. This Spring he presented a talk on his new book: From Heat to Thermal Science: A History of Thermodynamics. The book is currently in press with Springer, thanks to Seth Rasmussen.

The year 2025 is the International Year of Quantum. The HIST Historian, in collaboration with Carmen Giunta, Henry F. Schaefer III, and the ACS Webinar team presented a webinar on the History of Quantum Chemistry. More than 1000 people joined this event.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

The Origins and Early History of Conjugated Organic Polymers

A new book by Seth C. Rasmussen, *The Origins and Early History of Conjugated Organic Polymers. Organic Semiconductors, Synthetic Metals, and the Prehistory of Organic Electronics*, was released by Oxford University Press in July 2025 (ISBN 978-0-197-63816-3). Conjugated organic polymers first drew significant interest in the late 1970s when metallic-looking plastic films of polyacetylene were shown to exhibit conductivities in the metallic regime after treatment with various oxidizing agents. These results formed the basis for awarding Alan MacDiarmid, Alan Heeger,



and Hideki Shirakawa the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the "*for the discovery and development of electrically conductive polymers*." However, contrary to the common belief that these materials date to only the late 1970s, reports of electrically conductive polymers date back to the early 1960s, with the study of conjugated polymers as a whole dating back to the early 19th century.

The culmination of over 10 years of exhaustive research, *The Origins and Early History of Conjugated Organic Polymers* rethinks the accepted historical narrative of conjugated organic polymers, challenges the established interpretations, and provides new insights into these fascinating electronic materials. This book charts the history of the first six primary parent polymers, beginning with the introduction of polyaniline in 1834 and continuing up through the development of polythiophenes and low bandgap polymers in the 1980s. Finally, the book concludes with a chapter that places these materials within the larger history of organic and carbon-based conductors, outlines the early application of these materials to electronic devices, and then closes with a reflective discussion on the nature of discovery and the official wording of the Nobel Prize of 2000.

Submitted by Seth C. Rasmussen

HIST at the 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology

HIST recently represented the history of chemistry on the world stage in Dunedin, New Zealand. In cooperation with the Congress on the History of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences (CHCMS), HIST co-sponsored the symposium *Chemistry in the Asia-Pacific Region: Examining Exchanges and Circulation sustaining Chemical Practice* for the 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology (ICHST, June 29-July 5, 2025). Envisioned as a successor

The in-person speakers of the HIST-CHSMS sponsored symposium from left to right: Prof. Joris Mercelis (Johns Hopkins), Dr Brigitte van Tiggelen (Science History Institute), Prof. Seth Rasmussen (North Dakota State), Prof. John Webb (Swinburne University of Technology), Prof. Yoshiyuki Kikuchi (Aichi Prefectural University), Prof Ian Rae (University of Melbourne), and Prof. David Lewis. Photo by Debbie Lewis.

to the successful HIST-organized 2015 Pacifichem symposium *Historical Evolution of the Chemical Community in the Countries of the Pacific Rim,* the new ICHST symposium was co-organized by Yoshi Kikuchi (CHCMS) and Seth C. Rasmussen (HIST, CHCMS) and featured 10 oral presentations (8 in-person, 2 virtual) over the final two days of the conference. In addition to Rasmussen's presentation, the symposium also featured talks from additional HIST members and associates, including David E. Lewis, Ian Rae, and Brigitte Van Tiggelen. This HIST-sponsored activity successfully introduced HIST to a broader audience and proved that HIST contributes significantly to the collective world-wide scholarly pursuit of the history of chemistry.

Submitted by Seth C. Rasmussen

Great Lakes Regional Meeting 2025 (GLRM)

A HIST symposium took place at the GLRM, June 4 – 6, 2025, at Appleton, WI, organized by Seth Rasmussen and David Lewis.

Submitted by Joe Jeffers

Call for Nominations for the 2026 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award

The Division of History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) solicits nominations for the 2026 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. This award, formerly known as the Dexter Award and then the Edelstein Award, continues a tradition started in 1956. Lists of previous recipients of the Edelstein Award and its predecessor Dexter Award are available at https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/hist_award.php.

This award is sponsored by and administered by the Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST). The recipient chosen to receive the HIST Award is presented with an engraved plaque and the sum of $1500, usually at a symposium honoring the recipient at the Fall National Meeting of the ACS, which in 2026 will be held on August 25th in Chicago, IL. The award is international in scope, and nominations are welcome from anywhere in the world. Previous winners of the Dexter and Edelstein Awards include chemists and historians from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, and the United Kingdom.

Each nomination should consist of all of the following:

- A complete curriculum vitae for the nominee, including biographical data, educational background, awards, honors, list of publications, and other service to the profession;
- A letter of nomination summarizing the nominee's achievements in the field of the history of chemistry and citing unique contributions that merit a major award;
- At least two seconding letters;
- Copies of no more than three publications.

If material is sent as a pdf file, please combine into one file in the order requested above. Only complete nominations will be considered for the award. All nomination materials should be submitted (either as e-copy or as hard-copy in triplicate) to HIST for arrival no later than **December 31, 2025**.

Send an e-copy to Vera V. Mainz at mainz@illinois.edu OR alternatively send three (3) hard copies sets to:

Vera V. Mainz, HIST Sec/Treas
2709 Holcomb Drive
Urbana, IL 61802 USA

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Call for Nominations for the Paul Bunge Prize 2026: History of Scientific Instruments

The German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, GDCh) and the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry (Deutsche Bunsen Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie, DBG) invite proposals for the Paul Bunge Prize 2026.

The prize is awarded annually by the Hans R. Jenemann-Foundation and is named after Paul Bunge (1839-1888), one of the most important makers of precision balances in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Paul Bunge Prize honours outstanding research publications on all aspects of the history of scientific instruments. The prize is endowed with 7,500 Euro. It is awarded for either individual books or papers published within the last five years, or for lifetime achievements. Submitted works may be published in English, German, or French.

Applications and proposals should include the publications to be considered, a curriculum vitae and a full list of publications. The Advisory Board of the Hans R. Jenemann Foundation will decide on the prize winner.

The award ceremony will take place in Lübeck, Germany, in March 2026 on the occasion of conference of the History of Chemistry division of the German Chemical Society.

Submit your application or nomination, including cover letter, CV and publications, **by 30 September 2025** via the online form at https://www.gdch.de/paulbungepreis. Printed copies can be sent to the GDCh office attn: Dr. Ralph Wieneke. Digital versions are however preferred. Contact:

Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker
Dr. Ralph Wieneke
Varrentrappstr. 40-42
60486 Frankfurt a.M., Germany
r.wieneke@gdch.de
(+49) 69/7917 311

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Call for Nominations for the Partington Prize 2026 (SHAC)

The Partington Prize, established by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman, is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The prize consists of five hundred pounds (£500) if awarded to a single essay. Alternatively, it may be divided or not awarded at all.

The competition is open to anyone with a scholarly interest in the history of alchemy or chemistry who, by the closing date of 31 December 2025, has not reached 35 years of age, or if older is currently enrolled in a degree program or has been awarded a master's degree or PhD within the previous three years. No restriction is placed on the nationality or country of residence of competitors. Only one entry is permitted from any competitor.

The prize-winning essay will be published exclusively in the Society's journal, *Ambix*. It must not have been submitted to any journal, including *Ambix,* at any time before 30 April 2026. Essays must be submitted in English. Essays must be fully documented using the conventions used in the current issue of *Ambix* and include an abstract of no more than 200 words. Essays must not exceed 10,000 words in length, including the abstract, references and footnotes.

All entries should be sent in the form of two separate e-mail attachments in Microsoft Office Word (preferably 2013 or later) to prizes@ambix.org. The first attachment should be headed "Partington Prize Entry 2026" and should give the author's name, institution, postal address, e-mail address, date of birth (and, if relevant, the date of the award of the master's degree or PhD), the title of the essay, and the word count. The second attachment should be the essay, which should not identify the author either by name or implicitly.

Entries must arrive before **midnight GMT on 31 December 2025.** The decision of the Society will be final on all matters. The result of the competition will be announced by 30 April 2026.

Submitted by Annette Lykknes on behalf of SHAC

Other announcements of interest to HIST members

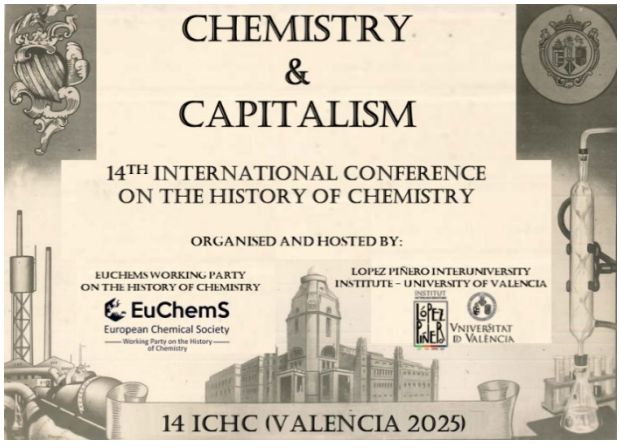
Lecture Conference of History of Chemistry 2026

The lecture conference History of Chemistry 2026 of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) takes place March 19-20, 2026, at Lübeck, Germany. It is open to all aspects of the history of chemistry and the chemical industry, as well as related topics. In addition to the plenary lecture by Prof. i. R. Dr. Bettina Wahrig (titled: Ladies' Paradise or Workers' Hell? – Debates during the Establishment of Large-Scale Plastics Production around 1900) and the presentations by the recipients of the Paul Bunge Prize and the Bettina Haupt Prize, current contributions will be presented and discussed in panel discussions. For more information contact:

Dr. Gisela Boeck
gisela.boeck@uni-rostock.de
0381-7998713

Submitted by Christine Hahn

14th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (14ICHC), June 11-14, 2025



Every other year the Division of History of Chemistry - EuChemS organizes an international conference on the history of chemistry, open to colleagues from all over the world. The general aim of the conferences organized by the Division is to facilitate communication between historical interested chemists, museum curators, science educators, and historians of chemistry, and to gather the community on a regular basis. The 14th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (14ICHC) (14 ICHC) took place June 11-14, 2025, in Valencia, Spain, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

The 14 ICHC was hosted by the Lopez Piñero Inter-University Institute – University of Valencia, an academic institution which supports research projects and outreach activities on historical and social studies on medicine, technology, science and the environment. The Institute is located in a restored 18th century palace in the center of the city of Valencia, where the Historical-Medical Library and the Scientific-Medical Collection of the University of Valencia are located, with permanent and temporary monographic exhibitions.

The general conference theme was Chemistry & Capitalism with the aim to foster debates about the relationship between chemistry, broadly constructed industry, environment, and regulations through a historical perspective.

Submitted by Christine Hahn

SHAC Autumn Meeting

The Society of History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) Autumn Meeting will take place October 16-17, 2025, at the Science History Institute, Philadelphia

It is intended that the first day of this two-day meeting will cover the history of alchemy and early modern chemistry, while the second day will discuss the history of chemistry from then to the modern period.

Papers on any aspect of the history of alchemy and chemistry, including their historiography will be presented. The SHAC chair, Professor Frank James has closed accepting paper on May 31, 2025, but may be contacted (frank.james@ucl.ac.uk).

Submitted by Rob Johnstone

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

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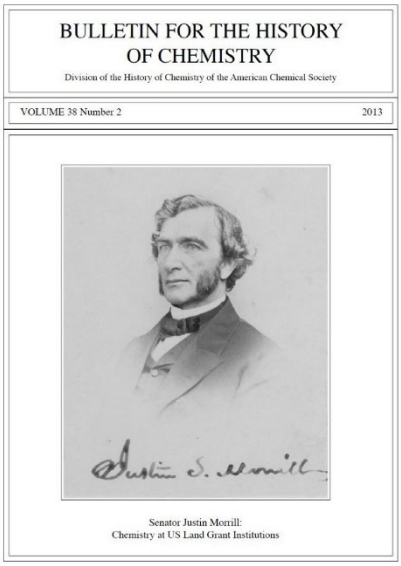
PAPER SUBMISSIONS: Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu.
The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. Authors should strive to make the title descriptive of the specific scope and content of the paper. Preferred file formats for submissions are .doc, .docx, and .rtf.
Full instructions for authors can be found at http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/info/bull-info.php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VOLUME 38 Number 2 2013
Senator Justin Morrill:
Chemistry at US Land Grant Institutions

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:

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Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu