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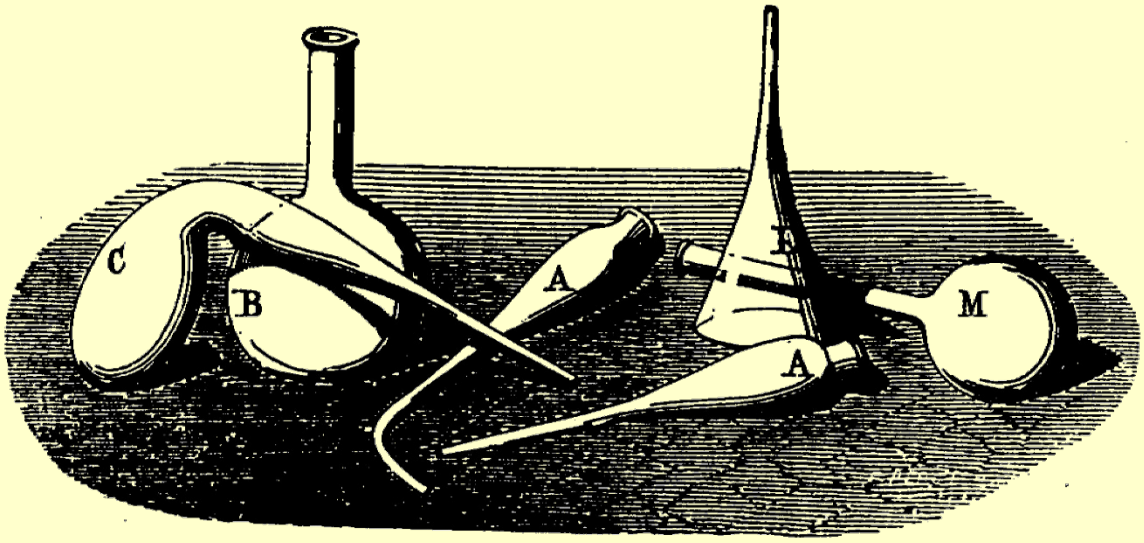
American Chemical Society

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 ACS National Meeting
Atlanta, GA
March 22-26

Christine Hahn, Program Chair

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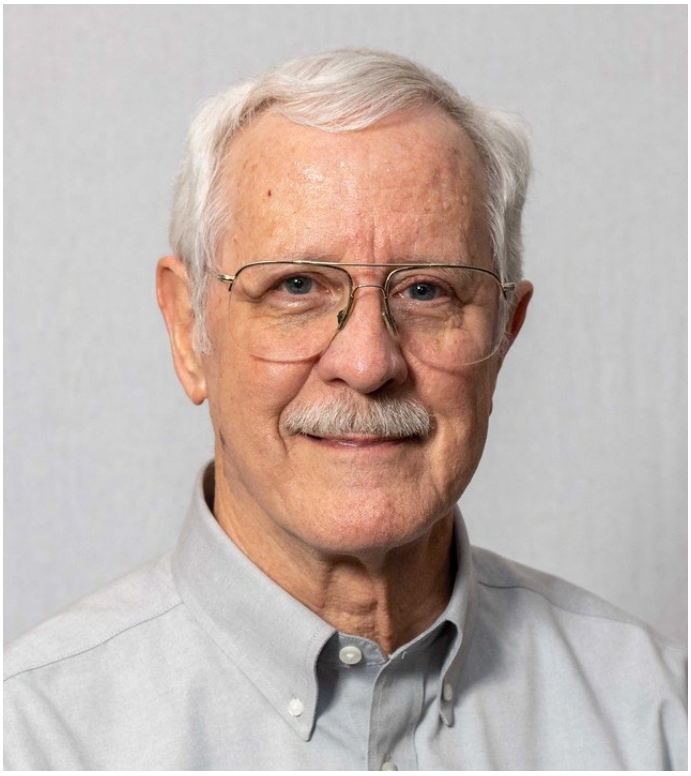
Mission Statement

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



This is an exciting year as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the American Chemical Society. Many program sessions in both the Spring and Fall meetings will participate in the celebration. Fortunately, we still have our normal pattern of meetings for the spring meeting in Atlanta. So, we will begin HIST sessions on Sunday, March 22, with Tutorial and General Papers. The full program and abstracts are at the end of this Newsletter.

With the reduced session footprint for fall meetings, HIST will not have a Sunday session. ACS, in their wisdom, cut HIST to four half-day sessions for fall meetings. Fortunately, this year HIST has collaborative sessions with other divisions and committees, giving HIST six half days of programming.

Nicholay Tsarevsky, HIST Chair-Elect, and Christine Hahn, HIST Program Chair, attended the January ACS Leadership Conference in Atlanta. It provided them with excellent contacts in planning for future meetings.

HIST congratulates Dr. Annette Lykknes, Department of Teacher Education, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, as the 2026 recipient of the Joseph P. Lambert History of

Chemistry Award. Her HIST Award Symposium and dinner will be held during the Fall ACS meeting in Chicago.

After each national meeting, the HIST Executive Committee selects two presentations from the meeting to be presented in the ChemHIST Talks series. Graeme Wyllie, Concordia College, Morehead, MN, presented "Glue and Adhesives: A Chemical History;" and Gregory Girolami, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, presented "A Remarkable but Little-Known American Contribution to the Invention of the Periodic Table: The Work of Charles S. Peirce." Both talks are available at https://www.youtube.com/@histacs, as are previous ChemHIST Talks.

HIST is promoting HIST programming at ACS Regional Meetings. In 2025 HIST had symposia at Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM), Southerneastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS) jointly with Southwest Regional Meeting (SWRM), and Western Regional Meeting (WRM). We are planning more. If you would like to organize a regional HIST symposium, please contact Seth Rasmussen, HIST Regional Meeting Coordinator, seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu.

I would be remiss not to give special thanks to Vera Mainz, Secretary-Treasurer of HIST, Carmen Giunta, Editor of the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry, and Christine Hahn, HIST Program Chair, for the immense efforts they expend on behalf of HIST. HIST has many other dedicated volunteers too numerous to mention in this space. HIST is made up of volunteers. If you are so led, we welcome you to join us.

We hope to see you at the HIST and JOINT sessions. 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
ACS Fall 2025 Meeting
Washington, DC
August 2025

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Penny Beuning, Raychelle Burks, Jason Ritchie, and Frankie Wood-Black for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). (Votes: *Penny Beuning 193, *Raychelle Burks 255, James Carver 174, Gregory Ferrence 165, Fran Kravitz 127, *Jason Ritchie 228, Stephanie Watson 161, *Frankie Wood-Black 207)
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected William Carroll, Jr., Carmen Gauthier, Thomas Lane, Louise Lawter, and Lori Stepan for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Committees (ConC). Louise Lawter will begin serving immediately to fill a vacated seat. (Votes: *William Carroll, Jr. 296, Robert Cohen 6, Roger Egolf 105, *Carmen Gauthier 242 Timothy Hanks 133, *Thomas Lane 245, *Louise Lawter 237, Margaret Levenberg 157, *Lori Stepan 209, Keith Vitense 169)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Kelly Elkins, Jennifer Hollingsworth, Alison Hyslop, Gregory Tew, Kathryn Uhrich, Don Warner, and Peter Zarras for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). After a tie vote and run-off election, Ellene Tratras Contis was elected to a two-year term (2026 – 2027) and Jingbo Louise Liu was elected to a one-year term (2026) to maintain rotation of terms as the committee expands its membership. (Votes: Mary Anderson 154, Maria Contel 139, *Kelly Elkins 218, *Jennifer Hollingsworth 227, *Alison Hyslop 191, Julie Jessop 171, *Jingbo Louise Liu 189, Marge Matthews 94, Lisa McElwee-White 151, Kristina Proctor 115, Elsa Reichmanis 186, *Gregory Tew 214, *Ellene Tratras Contis 189, Jackie Trischman 112, *Kathryn Uhrich 224, Lichang Wang 139, *Don Warner 210, *Peter Zarras 192)

Other Council Actions:

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 343 (86.40%) / No 54 (13.60%)] to approve the *Petition to Establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists* (CALC), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. Members will be appointed to this committee with terms beginning in 2026.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 336 (83.58%) / No 66 (16.42%)] to approve the *Petition to Realign the Committee on Publications*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition dissolves the committee; the work formerly performed by this committee will be handled by a new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board of Publishing.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 393 (97.52%) / No 10 (2.48%)] to approve the *Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition changes the name of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) to the Committee on Communications (COMM).
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 392 (97.76%) / No 9 (2.24%)] to approve the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition aligns the duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC) with those of other committees responsible for Unit functions (such as the Committee on Local Section Activities).
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Council voted to approve the Professional Employment Guidelines, as amended [Yes 373 (93.02%) / No 28 (6.98%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. CEPA presented an amendment clarifying the language associated with intellectual property ownership.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 389 (97.49%) / No 10 (2.51%)] to approve the *Petition for Changes in Local Section Territory.* This petition adds territory not currently within the boundaries of a Local Section to adjacent Local Sections.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Guatemala [Yes 383 (97.21%) / No 11 (2.79%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.

- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of nine-unit bylaws since the spring 2025 meeting. They include four Local Sections: Green Mountain, New York, Sacramento, and Southern Indiana; one Division: Rubber (RUBB); and four International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Ecuador, Ghana, Northeast China, and Shanghai.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors;
- In sincere appreciation of the Chemical Society of Washington, host Local Section for the ACS Fall 2025 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting; and
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Dorothy J. Phillips.

Meeting Attendance

The ACS Fall 2025 meeting was held from August 17 – 21. As of August 19, there were 11,640 registrations (10,602 in-person and 1,038 online). The ACS Spring 2026 meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA from March 22 – 26, 2026.

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 15-16, 2025, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

Board Actions

- 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 nominee for the 2026 Othmer Gold Medal.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve that the ACS nominees for the Othmer Gold Medal and Perkin Medal must be an ACS member in good standing beginning with the 2027 cycle.
- Upon recommendation of the Governing Board for Publishing (GBP), the Board voted to approve a one-time extension of all current Governing Board member terms, to end on December 31 of their respective end term year. This will allow GBP member terms to transition to a Jan-Dec cycle in alignment with Society Committees.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve that the advance member registration fee for 2026 ACS Spring and Fall meetings remain at $549 for in-person and $149 for virtual and approved associated pricing for all other registration fees.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve the allotment funding request for the International Chemical Sciences Chapters.
- The Board also acted on confidential matters related to salary, merit, and inflation assumptions for the 2026 budget planning process.

Board Discussions

- The Board engaged in a strategic discussion on the strengths and opportunities of the ACS structure for component groups.
- Board Chair Wayne Jones facilitated a discussion about themes emerging from feedback Board members have received from the ACS community.

Reports

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Albert Horvath and his staff provided organizational updates on current affairs and new initiatives. He shared the strong performance of ACS in 2025, and growth across many areas. He highlighted:

    - ✧ The Fall 2025 meeting announcement that one hundred $25,000 grants will be disbursed by year end under the one-time Graduate Student Success grant initiative as approved by the Board in June
    - ✧ ACS solutions-driven programs for industry partners
    - ✧ Collaborations with federal agencies, national labs, NGOs, foundations, and local government
    - ✧ ACS advocacy efforts, including letters to Congress, direct lobbying, interactions with federal agencies, legislative meetings and briefings, and ACS community activities
    - ✧ Executive Leadership Team (ELT) succession planning updates
    - ✧ Fall 2025 program updates, including registration exceeding the budgeted 11,000 attendees
    - ✧ ACS rebranding updates
    - ✧ Ongoing planning efforts for the ACS 150th Anniversary Celebration
    - ✧ Evolution of the ACS undergraduate scholarship portfolio, and
    - ✧ Sustainability efforts at ACS's Washington and Columbus campuses, including that the Washington, DC office buildings are LEED platinum certified.

- ACS Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Emily Kunchala reported on the strong financial healthof the organization. The report highlighted ongoing work in risk assessment, scenario planning, and cost optimization and productivity. For Q2 2025, the ACS financial guidelines have been met.
- Members of the presidential succession provided reports on their 2025 initiatives and activities.
- Committee Chairs Carolyn Ribes (Public Affairs and Public Relations), Katherine Lee (Professional and Member Relations), and Committee member Kimberly Agnew-Heard

(Strategic Planning) provided updates on their respective committee activities, ongoing efforts to review their processes, and future plans.

- Chair of the Governing Board for Publishing, Al Horvath, along with ACS Presidents Manny Guzman (CAS) and Jim Milne (Publications), shared key priorities aimed at driving growth and enabling sustained success. They also outlined strategic opportunities to strengthen ACS's information science and publishing portfolios.
- Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance Natalie LaFranzo reported on efforts to refine the committee's scope and to differentiate it from a proposed Board Committee on Finance.
- Chair of the Committee on Corporation Associates Michael Abrams updated the Board on the committee's work on safety culture and strengthening stakeholder partnerships, the ACS Industry Roundtable, Heroes of Chemistry, and their upcoming strategic planning retreat.
- Written reports were reviewed from the General Counsel, Human Resources, and the Committees on Chemical Technical Professionals, Chemists with Disabilities, Chemistry and Public Affairs, Community Activities, Education, Environment and Sustainability, Intellectual Property, International Activities, Public Relations and Communications, Publications, Professional Training, Science, Women Chemists, and Younger Chemists

HIST COUNCILOR ACTIVITIES

Roger Egolf continues as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC). DAC has recently modified its subcommittee structure, and he now serves on the Program Enhancement Subcommittee. Roger Egolf also serves the division as its representative to the Affiliates Council of the Science History Institute in Philadelphia.

Submitted by Roger Egolf

News and Announcements

Awards

2026 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award

The winner of the Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry for 2026 is Annette Lykknes for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the study and communication of the history of chemistry. In her nominating letter, Brigitte van Tiggelen lauded Professor Lykknes: "She acts as a figurehead for our discipline, embodying the values and ideals that make our field vibrant, creative, beneficial and inclusive."

Professor Lykknes is a true daughter of Norway, but she has become a mother of the European community of the history of chemistry. She was educated at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). She received a Masters degree in Chemical Education and taught mathematics and science for two years. While her interest in education remains a driving force for her, she decided to pursue a Ph.D. in the history of chemistry and obtained this in 2005 at NTNU under Prof. Lise Kvittingen, with thesis titled "Ellen Gleditsch: Professor, Radiochemist, and Mentor." Now she combines both pillars of her profession as Professor of Teacher Education at NTNU.

One of the secrets of her success is her commitment to an interdisciplinary approach to her scholarship. In her own words: "Over the course of my academic career, I have collaborated extensively with chemists and other natural scientists as well as with educators within these fields, with historians, philosophers and sociologists of science, with pedagogy scholars and with language experts and researchers of the Norwegian language, and even with a political scientist. The result of this is a foot in different fields and knowledge of quite distinct research methods and theoretical perspectives."

The Award committee noted: "Professor Lykknes has contributed to an amazing array of

research topical areas including: history of women scientists, studies of the collaborations of couples in science, history of the periodic table, discovery of the chemical elements, history of chemical education, how twentieth-century chemical engineers shaped the relationships between the academy and industries, and the application of the history of science to teach science." Alan Rocke especially noted her treatment of the work of Marie Curie as "revealing the complex nature of scientific discovery itself."

Annette Lykknes is at the center of the worldwide community of historians of chemistry. She is now the Editor-in-Chief of the flagship journal *Ambix.* She is currently the Chair of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the European Chemical Society. While her publication record is sterling, and her research is groundbreaking, her greatest achievements have been as a leader.

HIST is thrilled to honor Professor Annette Lykknes with the 2026 Joseph B. Lambert Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry.

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Brock Award for 2025 (SHAC)

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry is pleased to announce the winner of the first Brock Award. The Brock Award honors Professor William 'Bill' Hodson Brock (1936-2025), one of the leading historians of chemistry of the last fifty years and is for outstanding contributions in the fields of the history of alchemy and chemistry.

The Brock Award for 2025 is given to Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent for her lifetime of outstanding work in the history of chemistry. For about four decades she has produced original and thought-provoking research in the history and philosophy of chemical and materials science, significantly shaping the historiography of chemistry. Her work stands as an inspiring example of how innovative approaches in these fields can not only illuminate significant historical and philosophical ideas in the chemical sciences, but they can also meaningfully contribute to addressing contemporary societal challenges. Bensaude-Vincent has played a key role in establishing collaboration and building scholarly communities across Europe, and in nurturing new generations of scholars in history of chemistry, both formally and informally.

Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, a philosopher by training holds a doctorate from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. A professor at University of Paris Nanterre from 1989 to 2010, she moved to the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She is now professor emerita and a member of the French Academy of Technologies. She continues to publish innovative work and engage with both the scholarly community and public audiences.

The Brock Award will be presented to Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent at a special SHAC meeting to honor Bill Brock's memory in spring 2026.

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Vera Mainz Announces Retirement as *Secretary/Treasurer of HIST*

Vera is using the Spring 2026 Newsletter to announce her retirement from her position as Secretary/Treasurer of the HIST Division. She is grateful for the many years you have allowed her to serve in this capacity. The HIST nominating committee chair (Arthur Greenberg) invites anyone interested to submit a nomination to run for either the Secretary position or the Treasurer position – yes, we would like to split them into separate positions for the upcoming election this fall and then evaluate whether they should remain separate positions or be combined for the 2028 election. The nominating committee is encouraging those interested in these positions to attend the HIST Executive Committee meetings at the Spring and Fall meetings. The time and place for the Spring 2026 Executive Committee meeting can be found in the program.

Vera joined the HIST Division in 1994, was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer in 1995 and has served as Secretary/Treasurer since that time. Over the course of these years, she has expanded the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to include being the HIST Division webmaster. Vera hopes to continue as webmaster until she can do a major update to the site: she is committed to expanding the value and increasing the timeliness of the Division's website, including making all issues of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* available to HIST members via the website.

Her interest in the HIST Division was kindled when she presented her work on the chemical genealogy of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UI) Chemistry Department at a HIST symposium on chemical genealogies in 1994. She has continued her work in this area, posting her information to a website at https://web-genealogy.scs.illinois.edu/ , and plans to update this project when her schedule allows. Vera's interest in the history of chemistry led her and her husband Gregory Girolami to co-curate two exhibits at the Univ. of Illinois' Rare Book Room:

1) From Alchemy to Chemistry: Five

Hundred Years of Rare and Interesting Books, https://rbx-exhibit2000.scs.illinois.edu/ and 2) Crystallography – Defining the Shape of Our Modern World, found online at https://xray-exhibit.scs.illinois.edu/index.php .

In her life before HIST, Vera was the Director of the NMR Lab in the School of Chemical Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (now retired) from 1985-2010. She also served as the Interim Director, Microanalysis Laboratory, School of Chemical Sciences from 2004-2010, and the Interim Director, Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, School of Chemical Sciences from 2003-2009.

Vera received a B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics at Kansas Newman College (1976), and a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of California Berkeley (1981) with Richard A. Andersen (she was Dick's first Ph.D. student). She spent 1-1/2 years working at Rohm and Haas in Springhouse, PA, and then accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (1983-1985) with Walter Klemperer before becoming Director of the NMR Lab. She has been a member of the ACS since co-founding a student chapter of the ACS on her college campus in 1975. Vera was a member of the ACS Fellows Class of 2012, which honored her contributions to the ACS (HIST and local section service) and the many students she has helped while working in the NMR Lab.

Vera does needlepoint and a couple of her current favorite pieces are *Pyramids at the Oasis* (designed by Wendy Moore) and *Ambrosia Honey* (designed by Karen Steklasa Matze). She plans to continue working through her stash!

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Obituary

Remembering George K. Schweitzer

Dec. 5, 1924 – Sept. 20, 2024

It is with great sadness that the Department of Chemistry of the University of Tennessee announces the passing of Professor George K. Schweitzer. The longest serving faculty member in the history of the University of Tennessee, Schweitzer will be remembered for his pioneering work in inorganic chemistry and radiochemistry, and by the thousands of students he mentored and taught.

Born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Schweitzer earned a BA in chemistry from Central College in 1945. He went on to graduate studies at the University of Illinois, where he was granted a PhD in 1948. Schweitzer moved to Tennessee to join the chemistry faculty in 1948 and in 2023 celebrated his 75th year of teaching at UT.

During World War II, Schweitzer investigated fissionable nuclides, and his dissertation work has been described as an extension of the Manhattan Project. He said he came to UT because of its proximity to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and its relevance to his research. Upon his arrival, Schweitzer was charged with establishing the PhD programs for Inorganic and Radiochemistry.

Schweitzer described his first day of teaching as "a hoot," noting that, at 23 years old, he was convinced most of the students in his class were older than him. He enjoyed telling the story of that day, when he joined class and sat down to

listen to the students discussing the new professor and what they expected him to be like. When the bell sounded for his class to begin, Schweitzer stood and introduced himself to his students, who all laughed.

At a time when the university was just beginning to develop its identity, Schweitzer was already exemplifying what it means to be a Volunteer. He served as radiation safety officer for the State of Tennessee during the Cold War. His work contributed heavily to the development of photoelectron scanning instruments, technology that made some modern medical scanning equipment possible. He was fond of the saying, "I have come to serve, not to be served."

In 1960, Schweitzer was named the inaugural Macebearer, an award presented to a faculty member who has exhibited longstanding commitment to the university and the community. His love of investigation and the pursuit of knowledge led him to earn an MA in philosophy from Columbia University, followed by a PhD in philosophy from New York University. He was later awarded a ScD for his work in the history of science.

Schweitzer's colleagues remember him fondly, often recalling his devotion to continued learning. Fellow professor and inorganic chemist Ben Xue met Schweitzer for the first time soon after joining the university in 1992.

"I was deeply impressed by his knowledge of the world, broad interests, and sharp mind," said Xue. "George was a unique scientist and colleague, and I will miss him."

During Professor Schweitzer's time at the university, he served under 13 UT presidents and seven department heads. He saw the creation of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, the UT College of Nursing, and the development of the UT System itself. He was with the department when it moved into the then newly built Buehler Hall, after spending years working with its namesake, Calvin Buehler. He published more than 150 academic papers and authored 17 books on chemistry and local and family history, including a history of the Department of Chemistry at UT. In 1970 he was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor.

Though he cited his research as his greatest pride point, Schweitzer's teaching legacy cannot be ignored. Over the years he mentored more than 140 graduate students, ushering them toward PhD and MS degrees. He taught classes in the chemistry, philosophy, history, and nuclear engineering departments, and had the unique experience of teaching the grandchildren of students he had taught before.

"In my four years at the University of Tennessee, I have met with many of our alumni," said Viktor Nemykin, current head of the Department of Chemistry. "Everyone remembered George and wanted to talk to him. His more than 75 years of service to the department and university are truly unmatched." When asked if he planned to retire, Schweitzer once responded that he had considered it at one time, but he had since recovered. He continued to teach into the current academic year and had planned to teach in the spring. With a career as expansive as Professor Schweitzer's, it is impossible to recount every important contribution made to his discipline, the university, and beyond. At 99 years old, he experienced and contributed to the making of the world as it exists today, teaching and conducting research through most of it. The university and department are unlikely to see his legacy matched, and he will be sorely missed.

From: https://chem.utk.edu/remembering-george-k-schweitzer/

Submitted by Christine Hahn/ Deborha Penchoff

HIST News

Call for Papers: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke: ACS President and Geochemist – A HIST/GEOC Symposium for Fall 2026

One of the greatest American geochemists was Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931). He was also an important figure in the founding and development of the ACS. The Fall ACS meeting in Chicago, August 23-27, 2026, will include a joint symposium between HIST and GEOC to celebrate F.W. Clarke. Five papers have already been proposed: 1) F.W. Clarke: Father of American Geochemistry and a Founder of the ACS, 2) F.W. Clarke: Chief Chemist at the US Geological Service, 3) F.W. Clarke: The Smithsonian Institution and the Constants of Nature, 4) F.W. Clarke and Atomic Weights, and 5) F.W. Clarke: President of the ACS 1901. Other topics might include F.W. Clarke and The Data of Geochemistry, F.W. Clarke and the Cosmos Club, and F.W. Clarke and the Golden Jubilee of the ACS. Submissions are warmly requested from all HIST and GEOC members. Abstract submission closes on March 30, 2026.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

SHAC Spring meeting
Remembering Bill Brock: Chemistry and Culture

The SHAC Spring meeting will be held on 10 April 2026 arranged with and at the Maison Française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford, OX2 6SE.

This meeting is being held to commemorate the life, work and legacy of William Hodgson Brock (1936-2025), who spent his entire career at the University of Leicester. Sometime chair of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) and editor of its journal *Ambix*, Brock was one of the leading historians of chemistry in his time, writing the Fontana/Norton *History of Chemistry*, as well as biographies of William Crookes, Justus von Liebig and Henry Edward Armstrong. (An extended obituary can be found at https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00026980.2025.2489298). The papers to be presented at this meeting take their starting point from Brock's work and historical interests.

Program schedule:

9.30 Registration and Coffee
9.55 Welcome: **Stéphane Van Damme**, MFO, and **Frank James**, SHAC
10.00 First Brock Award Lecture: **Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent**, Université Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne, *The history of chemistry through the lens of materials. A very short introduction*
10.45 Session 1: **Alan Rocke**, Case Western Reserve University: *The Best of Frenemies: Liebig and Dumas (A Tribute to William H. Brock)*
11.15 Coffee
11.45 Session 2: **Eira H. Betthell** (Booth), University of Essex: *From Laboratory to Library: Bill Brock's Prolific Writing as Chemical Practice*; **Matthew Daniel Eddy**, Durham University: *A Context for Colonial Chemistry: Thinking with Bill Brock about the Biomedical Relevance of Dr J. A. B. Horton's Experiments on the Soil of Sierra Leone*; **Georgiana D. Hedesan**, University of Oxford: *The Foundation of the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry in 1935: Between Historical Research and the Transmutational Paradigm*; **Michael Jewess**, Independent Scholar: *Working with Bill: Robert Fergus Hunter (1904-1963)*
13.15 Lunch: Not provided but there are some good pubs nearby
14.30 Tribute from the Brock family: **Susannah Ahluwalia, Gareth Brock and Benjamin Brock**
14:50 Session 3: **Julia Carr-Trebelhorn**, University of Cincinnati: *Burning Diamonds: Lavoisier, Guettard, and the 1771 Develop-ment of Reduction Firing and Hard-Paste Porcelain in Paris*; **John R.R. Christie**, University of Oxford: *Commerce, Manufacture and Practical Chemistry in18th-Century Britain*; **Robert Bud**, Science Museum/UCL: *Poison gas and Art Deco: analysing early 20th century ambivalence about chemistry*
16.00 Coffee

16.20 Session 4: **Robin Mackie**, Open University and **Gerrylynn K Roberts**, Independent Scholar: *Counting the British Chemical Community, 1881-1971: Opening the 'Black Box'*; **Annette Lykknes**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology: *Crookes'* Vis Generatrix *in teaching and learning*
17.15 Closing remarks
17.20 End of meeting

There is no charge for this meeting, but please let Frank James, frank.james@ucl.ac.uk, know if you wish to attend.

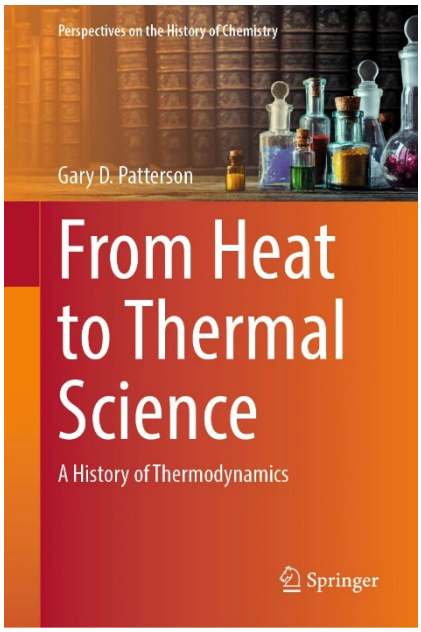
Submitted by Vera Mainz

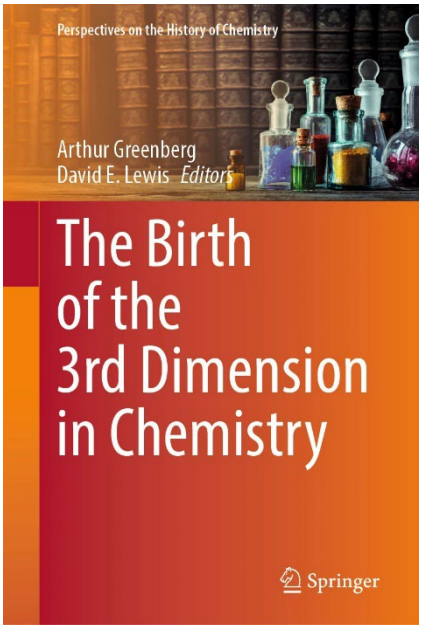
New Volumes in the Perspectives on the History of Chemistry Book *Series*

Over the past several months, three new volumes have been published as part of Springer's *Perspectives on the History of Chemistry* Book Series. This has included *From Heat to Thermal Science. A History of Thermodynamics* (ISBN 978-3-031-99675-7) by Gary D. Patterson, *The Birth of the 3rd Dimension in Chemistry* (ISBN 978-3-031-97742-8) edited by Arthur Greenberg and David E. Lewis, and *How Glass Changed the World. Revised and Expanded* (ISBN 978-3-032-11857-8) by Seth C. Rasmussen.

Patterson's *From Heat to Thermal Science* explores the human understanding of heat, from early cultural perceptions to the scientific developments that shaped thermal science. Beginning with historical musings on heat, it traces the evolution of scientific thought from 16th century Italy to the quantum understanding of heat in the 20th century. The book examines how humans have perceived, measured, and produced heat, leading to a unified concept that has remained constant: "heat flows from a hot body to a cold body."

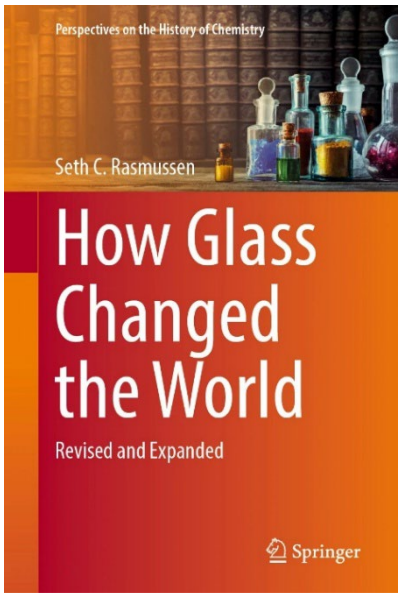
The second volume, *The Birth of the 3rd Dimension in Chemistry*, is based on presentations made at the 2024 Symposium on the sesquicentennial of the independent proposals of the tetrahedral carbon by van 't Hoff and Le Bel





(1874), presented to the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society in March 2024. Edited by Greenberg and Lewis, the book features chapters dedicated to the life and work of Le Bel and the history of stereochemistry. The expansion of the van 't Hoff-Le Bel theory to elements beyond carbon, such as metals and chiral centers based on sulfur and selenium, is also explored. Additionally, the book discusses the visualization of organic molecules in three dimensions through molecular models, the limits of bonding and

stereochemistry in organic molecules, and the role of crystallography in stereochemistry development. Specific topics include hydrocarbons with severely distorted geometry, the quantum chemical revolution, the effects of substituents on tetrahedral carbons, the Walden inversion, and the Fischer elucidation of monosaccharide configurations. Of particular note, a chapter by Kahr and Rossi includes the only English translation of the undergraduate thesis of the world-renowned author Primo Levi, a Jewish, Italian-born chemist and Holocaust survivor, and provides historical and scientific context.



Finally, Rasmussen's *How Glass Changed the World* explores the history and chemistry of glass technology, tracing its origins from antiquity through its evolution into a vital material for science and society. Beginning with early synthetic silica glass production around 2500 BCE, it examines its development up through the Roman period, the transformative innovations of Venetian and Murano glassmakers, and the eventual rise of Bohemian glass. The text highlights glass's crucial role in the development of mirrors, lenses, eyeglasses, and chemical apparatus, all of which enabled critical scientific advancements. Covering glass's refinement up to the 18th century, this book dives into its profound impact on both chemical practices and broader societal advancements. This volume is an updated and extended version of the author's earlier Springer publication, *How Glass Changed the World: The History and Chemistry of Glass from Antiquity to the 13th Century* (2012), expanding the historical scope and deepening the analysis of glass's transformative role in science and society.

Submitted by Seth C. Rasmussen

Other announcements of interest to HIST members

SHAC at SHI – 16-17 October 2025

A meeting on the history of alchemy and chemistry, jointly organized by SHAC and SHI, was held at SHI in Philadelphia. For further details please visit: https://www.sciencehistory.org/visit/events/fall-2025-meeting-of-the-society-for-the-history-of-alchemy-and-chemistry/

Special Issue of Ambix – August and November 2025 Double Issue

A special issue of Ambix was published as a special double issue covering August and November 2025. It explores the nature and agency of fire and its role in human interaction with the material world by focusing on premodern heat technologies. It takes a wide comparative view of different practices, including metalwork and distillation, with an emphasis on early modern Europe and pre-Hispanic South America. View special issue under:https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/yamb20. Online access to Ambix is included in SHAC membership.

Submitted by Nicolay Tsarevsky

International Congress on the Bicentenary of Stanislao Cannizzaro's Birth

The Società Chimica Italiana and the University of Palermo are proud to host an international congress on the bicentenary of Stanislao Cannizzaro's birth. The event will bring together historians of science, chemists, philosophers, and scholars from across the world to reflect on Cannizzaro's work and his time.

The congress will be held in several historic venues in Palermo from April 14 to 17, 2026. Registration deadline is March 1, 2026. https://cannizzaro2026.unipa.it/.

Sybmitted by Gisela Boeck

Call for Abstracts – 29th Conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry, 29-31 July 2026

The organizing committee is pleased to announce that the 29th annual conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry (ISPC 2026) will be held **July 29-31 2026**, at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) under the auspices of the UCLA Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry (ISPC): https://philosophyofchemistry.com/ .

Invited proposals will address a diverse range of contemporary questions in the epistemology and metaphysics of chemistry, in addition to historical and educational aspects of chemistry. Location: Royce Hall, at UCLA.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Prof. Pieter Thyssen, Liège University, Belgium and Prof. Guillermo Restrepo, Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig, Germany,

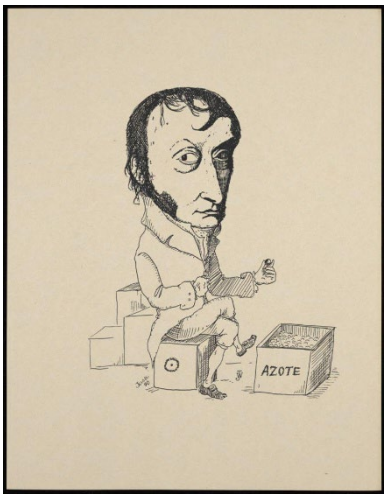
Submissions on any topic in the philosophy of chemistry, including historical and educational presentations of fundamental aspects of chemistry. Deadline for abstract submission: 31st March 2026. Notification of acceptance will be sent 20th April 2026. Please direct any inquiries to Dr. Eric Scerri, UCLA, scerri@g.ucla.edu.

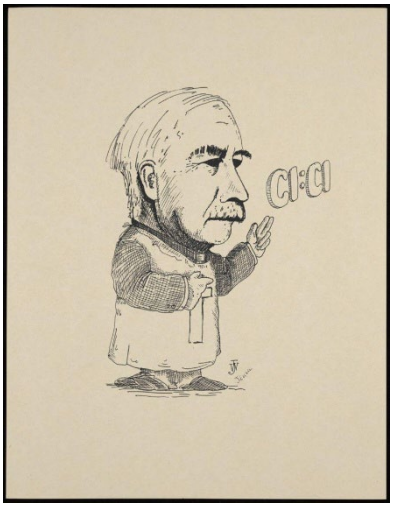
Updates on the Oesper Collections

The Oesper Collections recently launched a new digital collection on JSTOR of Bill Jensen's original hand drawn scientific caricatures. You are encouraged to use them in your lectures and papers with attribution. Lower resolution copies are available for immediate download and high-resolution copies can be provided upon request. Find the caricatures and our digital apparatus collections on JSTOR:

https://www.jstor.org/site/uc/oesper/

Please contact Mark Chalmers with any questions: mark.chalmers@uc.edu



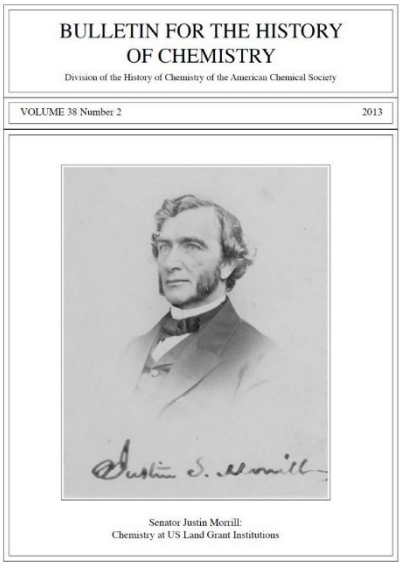


BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

Available online: http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin/index.php

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


BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY
Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society
VOLUME 38 Number 2 2013
Senator Justin Morrill:
Chemistry at US Land Grant Institutions

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:
Prof. Carmen Giunta
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Manlius, NY 13104
Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu

HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

First, my congratulations to Annette Lykknes, the winner of the Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award 2026! As Joe Jeffers mentioned, we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of ACS this year. Therefore, it is a great opportunity for HIST to support a series of symposia of the various ACS divisions to look back on their history during the Spring and Fall meetings.

The Spring 2026 Meeting consists of a large variety of HIST program items including not only the traditional HIST oral and poster sessions but also digital and joint sessions. Three of the four joint symposia are dedicated to "ACS150".

The program starts on Sunday morning (10 am) with the digital session with four presenters. On Sunday afternoon a joint symposium with YCC is scheduled, "150 Years of Building Foundations in Chemistry". Also, on Sunday afternoon the HIST sponsored symposium "In Honor of Prof. George Schweitzer" organized by NUCL will take place. This symposium was rescheduled from last Fall to this Spring meeting. Sunday evening the HIST Executive Committee will meet.

Our program on Monday is most diverse. In the morning, we hold our traditional Tutorial and General paper session. It includes the Award Address of Stephen Cohen for his James T. Grady-James H. Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public sponsored by ACS. Congratulations to Stephen Cohen! For the full day on Monday the joint symposium "Science Communication: Past, Present, and Future" with COMM is scheduled with poster session at noon. It is organized by H.N. Cheng and includes an introduction by ACS President-Elect Dr. Christina Bodurow. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Presidential Events. Another joint symposium will take place on Monday afternoon with the title "Historical Perspectives on Biotechnology Breakthrough" organized by BIOT. In addition, there is the HIST co-sponsored symposium "Chemistry and Film" organized by YCC. Monday evening HIST is listed with 7 poster presentations for SciMix. As usual HIST will be present at Division Row.

Tuesday is filled with the joint symposium with CHED and YCC: "Teaching Chemistry Using History, Art, and Pop Culture" organized by Sharon Hamilton, and Sara Hubbard. This symposium consists of short, educational, and entertaining talks with panel discussion at the end of each session.

On Wednesday the full-day symposium "History of Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols" will be held with nominal co-sponsorship by NST and organized by Seth Rasmussen.

For the Fall 2026 meeting in Chicago, there will be another series of "ACS150" themed joint symposia on the program (1) "Past ACS Presidents: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931)." (HIST-GEOC), (2) "Feeding the World" (HIST-AGRO-AGFD), (3) "Historical Contributions to Chemistry for All" (HIST-CHED & ACS Chicago Local Section), (4) "Tracing the Bonds: 150

Years of Organic Chemistry and Its Legacy" (HIST-DOC-MEDI), and (5) "Chemistry Behind Art & Art Conservation" (HIST-PHYS-YCC). For the last symposium we received a "ACS150" grant to support our speakers.

Looking further in the future, we plan for Spring 2027 a major symposium on "Archeological Chemistry" organized by Nicholas Zumbulyadis.

Now I welcome you to our Spring 2026 Meeting at Atlanta, and wish you all a very pleasant stay, enjoyable program, and safe travels!

Christine Hahn, HIST Program Chair

HIST SYMPOSIA, Spring 2026 ACS Meeting (March 22-26, 2026)

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/) for updates.

Fall 2026 ACS National Meeting (Chicago, IL, August 23-27)

HIST Award Symposium, Organizers: Brigitte Van Tiggelen, vantiggelen@memosciences.be, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, (PA); Carmen Giunta, PO Box 522, Manlius, NY 13104, Phone: 315-632-4992, Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributions) Organizer: Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593-3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

Past ACS Presidents: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931) (Invited and contributed) **Joint Symposium HIST-GEOC**. Organizers: Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, Phone: 412-480-0656, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu, Carmen Giunta, PO Box 522, Manlius, NY 13104, Phone: 315-632-4992, Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu, and Vitalii Starchenko, Chemical Science Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Phone: 865-574-1252, Email: starchenkov@ornl.gov

Feeding the World Through Chemistry. (Invited) **Joint Symposium HIST-AGRO-AGFD**. Organizers: Michael Tunick, Email: mht39@drexel.edu; Roger Egolf, Email: rae4@psu.edu, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, 2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, PA 18034, Phone: 610-285-5110; Dena Barett, Email dbarrett@agrodiv.org; Beth Lorsbach, Email: beth.lorsbach@nufarm.com; Sara Whiting, sara.whiting@bayer.com.

Historical Contributions to Chemistry for All. (Contributed) **Joint Symposium HIST-CHED & ACS Chicago Local Section**, Organizers: Amy Balija, Loyola University Chicago, 1032 W Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60660, Email abalija@LUC.edu, Phone: 773-508-3178; Christine Hahn, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Phone: 361-593-3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

Tracing the Bonds: 150 Years of Organic Chemistry and Its Legacy. (Invited) **Joint Symposium HIST-DOC-MEDI**, Organizers: Monica Arroyo, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Email: monicam.arroyo@gmail.com, Emily McLaughlin, Bard College, New York, Phone: 845-758-6822, Email: mclaughl@bard.edu.

Chemistry Behind Art & Art Conservation. (Contributed) **Joint symposium HIST-PHYS-YCC**, Organizers: Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Phone: 361-593-3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu; Taylor Keller, Email: tmkeller11@gmail.com; Bern Kohler, The Ohio State University, Columbus (OH), Phone: 614-688-2635, Email: kohler@chemistry.ohio-state.edu; Allison Smith, Email: amscrik@gmail.com.

There is a series of **HIST sponsored** symposia organized by a variety of divisions celebrating the 150th Anniversary of ACS.

Spring 2027 ACS Meeting

Archeological Chemistry. (Invited and contributed**), Joint Symposium HIST-ANYL-COMP-CHED**, Organizer: Nicolas Zumbulyadis, Email: nicholas.zumbulyadis@icloud.com. The symposium will include: 1. Advances in Analytical Technology and Automation Synchrotron Methods, Multispectral Imaging, Biomolecular Methods/Proteomics/Genomics, Laser Ablation-ICP-MS, Advances in Portability, Laser- Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy, XRF mapping; 2. Computational Methods; AI, big data management, spectral simulations, molecular dynamics simulations, archaeological chemistry and digital humanities; 3. New Approaches and Results in Experimental Archaeology, Recipes and replication

Proposed Symposia

History of Small Businesses, (Invited and contributed), joint symposium with SCHB, Xu Simon, xufits@gmail.com, and Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

For updates and additional information, e.g., on symposia at regional ACS meetings, please check the HIST website (https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/)