



*The Newsletter of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society*

**Volume 97**

**November 2025**

### **LOCAL SECTION OFFICER CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES**

The following slate of candidates for 2026 WNYACS Executive positions has been established. In accordance with our bylaws, an election ballot will be created, and all members eligible to vote will be contacted with voting instructions. Look for a separate email with a link to the ballot from our provider, **ElectionBuddy.com**. You need the Access Key and Password that are included in that notification email from ElectionBuddy in order to vote. Brief biographies of the officer candidates are below.

Chair (2026): Jason Benedict  
Vice Chair (2026): Jiayu Peng  
Treasurer (2026-2027): Robert Stewart  
Councilor (2026-2028): Peter Schaber  
Member at Large (2026-2027): Lindsay Rose

The current officers, serving in various roles, are listed on page 4. Anyone interested in getting involved with the local section is encouraged to contact these folks, as we are always looking for new people interested in contributing ideas or in helping to organize events.

#### **For Chair (2026):**

**Jason Benedict** is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo. His research seeks to understand and ultimately control the interaction of light and matter in crystalline materials. From photo-responsive metal-organic frameworks to low-flux upconversion materials, his research is focused on the design and synthesis of next-generation smart 'materials by design'. Jason is also active in outreach programs; he recently chaired and organized the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Western New York Undergraduate Research Symposium and the U.S. Crystal Growing Competition – a fun STEM activity for students in grades K-12.

Jason received his B.S. in Chemistry from Arizona State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington with Bart Kahr. Jason worked as a postdoctoral researcher with Philip Coppens at UB before joining the faculty in 2011.

#### **For Vice Chair (2026):**

**Jiayu Peng** is an Assistant Professor of Materials Design and Innovation at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. He obtained his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2022, and subsequently worked as a Postdoctoral Associate in the same department at MIT until 2024. His research group aims to combine data science and machine learning with materials physics and surface chemistry to understand and design materials for chemical transformation and energy technologies. He has been recognized with a Graduate Student Award from the Materials Research Society, the ENFL Future Investigator Spotlight from the Division of Energy and Fuels of the American Chemical Society, the IUPAC-Zhejiang NHU International Award for Advancements in Green Chemistry for Young Chemists from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the Healthcare & Science List of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia.

#### **For Treasurer (2026-2027):**

**Robert Stewart** is seeking reelection as WNYACS treasurer; in his previous term, Rob maintained a balanced budget while seeking low-risk growth opportunities to expand the section's operating capital by approximately 2%. Rob leveraged his position on the board to develop the Science Café series, which has hosted numerous successful events in past years – sponsoring seminars by speakers in academia, local industry, and federal government. He is a senior scientist at Honeywell International, Inc. Rob received his BS in Chemistry from Canisius College in 2011 and PhD in physical chemistry from Penn State University in 2016.

Rob was a member of the ACS student chapter at Canisius from 2007 to 2011 and served as chapter president from 2010 to 2011. In his free time, Rob enjoys the outdoors, glassblowing, and family; he can be reached at [robert.stewart@honeywell.com](mailto:robert.stewart@honeywell.com).

**For Councilor (2026-2028):**

**Peter Schaber** is past Chair and is a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Canisius University. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Canisius College in 1975, and his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1980, under the direction of Dr. Robert D. Beremen. From there he accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Argonne National Laboratory and conducted research under the direction of Dr. J. J. Katz. Dr. Schaber has published over two-dozen articles on a wide range of topics including synthesis, crystallography and chemical analysis. In his 40 years at Canisius College, he has been successful in securing over \$850,000 in external grants to support curriculum modification, instrument acquisition and chemical research. He has held the position of Science Advisor to the Food and Drug Administration, Buffalo District, and has acted as a consultant to several governmental agencies (NASA, Erie County Crime Lab, etc.) and local, national and international industrial firms. Dr. Schaber has been an ACS member since 1975, and has held the positions of Treasurer, Vice-Chair, and Chair in the WNY Section. He was the Program Director when the WNYACS won its first national Phoenix Award in 1980 for "Best High School Program" during National Chemistry Week.

**For Member at Large (2026-2027):**

**Lindsay Rose** is a Buffalo import! She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and was hooked on chemistry through the influence of her high school teacher. She attended Butler University as a chemistry major and went on to earn her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Cornell University. She is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Niagara County Community College and received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2019. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, photography, and spending time with her family.

**75 YEARS AGO IN THE DOUBLE BOND**

In November, 1950, *Double Bond* editor, Marshall Mead, wrote this commentary:

**Regarding Jokes**

The editor has received many gratifying comments regarding the make-up and the material published in Volume 23. The jokes are well-liked by a majority of the readers, but there are a few who do not like them for some reasons as yet unknown. Those few have not made their complaints to the editor personally but have made it known through others. The editor would welcome those complaints in a more direct manner, since he is solely responsible for all material appearing in the DOUBLE BOND. It may be interesting to note that all jokes used to date have been borrowed from the pages of other A. C. S. Section publications or from allied sources. However, the editor does realize that he cannot hope to please all of his readers!

*Editor's note: In 2025, the decision was made NOT to reprint examples of the jokes from 1950 that may have elicited complaints from readers of the day. Sensibilities held by the current editor consider more than just a majority of readers and dictate that silence from readers is not an accurate measure of their satisfaction with the newsletter. It's also commonly understood that reprinting/reposting from another source does not absolve you from the obligation to read fairly and critically, and to make sensible editorial decisions.*

*After some searching, the following joke was found in the November, 1950 Double Bond, and, in contrast to most, seems to be acceptable to a general audience--if not particularly funny.*

Two crows were flying across the country when they were overtaken and passed by a jet-propelled plane. One crow said to the other, "Say, that fellow sure is in a hurry, ain't he?"

"Sure," said the other, "and you would be, too, if you was on fire the way he is."



**ACS Fall 2025 Meeting**

Washington, DC

August, 2025

**Meeting Attendance**

The ACS Fall 2025 meeting was held 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 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).

*Penny Beuning 193	Fran Kravitz 127
*Raychelle Burks 255	*Jason Ritchie 228
James Carver 174	Stephanie Watson 161
Gregory Ferrence 165	*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). Lawter will begin serving immediately to fill a vacated seat.

*William Carroll, Jr. 296	*Thomas Lane 245
Robert Cohen 61	*Louise Lawter 237
Roger Egolf 105	Margaret Levenberg 157
*Carmen Gauthier 242	*Lori Stepan 209
Timothy Hanks 133	Keith Vitense 1

• 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.

Mary Anderson 154	Kristina Proctor 115
Maria Contel 139	Elsa Reichmanis 186
*Kelly Elkins 218	*Gregory Tew 214
*Jennifer Hollingsworth 227	*Ellene Tratras Contis 189
*Alison Hyslop 191	Jackie Trischman 112
Julie Jessop 171	*Kathryn Uhrich 224
*Jingbo Louise Liu 189	Lichang Wang 139
Marge Matthews 94	*Don Warner 210
Lisa McElwee-White 151	*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 from 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.

## 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 onetime 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 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 health of 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

Submitted by,  
Dave Nalewajek, Councilor

## WYNACS Local Section Officers

**WNYACS Section Chair 2025**

Chris Li  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-4285  
[yuguangl@buffalo.edu](mailto:yuguangl@buffalo.edu)

**Chair Elect 2025**

Jason Benedict  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
(716) 645-4276  
[jbb6@buffalo.edu](mailto:jbb6@buffalo.edu)

**Vice-Chair 2025**

Open

**Secretary 2025-2026**

Caitlyn Montross  
Daemen University  
(716) 839-8405  
[cmontros@daemen.edu](mailto:cmontros@daemen.edu)

**Treasurer 2024-2025**

Robert Stewart  
Honeywell  
(716) 827-6842  
[robert.stewart@honeywell.com](mailto:robert.stewart@honeywell.com)

**Councilor 2023-2025**

Peter Schaber  
Canisius University  
(716) 888-2351  
[schaber@canisius.edu](mailto:schaber@canisius.edu)

**Councilor 2025-2027**

David Nalewajek  
Honeywell  
(716) 675-5468  
[david.nalewajek@gmail.com](mailto:david.nalewajek@gmail.com)

**Member-at-Large 2025-2026**

Matthew Crawley  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-0433  
[mrcrawle@buffalo.edu](mailto:mrcrawle@buffalo.edu)

**Newsletter Editor**

Timothy Gregg  
Canisius University  
(716) 888-2259  
[greggt@canisius.edu](mailto:greggt@canisius.edu)

**Newsletter Assistant Editor**

Open

**Schoellkopf Award Chair 2025**

Luis Velarde  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-6963  
[lvelarde@buffalo.edu](mailto:lvelarde@buffalo.edu)

**Education Committee Chair**

Open

**Chemistry Olympiad  
Co-Chairs**

Krit Marohn  
Canisius University  
(716) 888-2348  
[marohnk@canisius.edu](mailto:marohnk@canisius.edu)  
Sherry Chemler  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-4225  
[schemler@buffalo.edu](mailto:schemler@buffalo.edu)

**Undergraduate Research Symposium 2025**

Timothy Gregg  
Canisius University  
(716) 888-2259  
[greggt@canisius.edu](mailto:greggt@canisius.edu)

**National Chemistry Week**

David Nalewajek  
Honeywell  
(716) 675-5468  
[david.nalewajek@gmail.com](mailto:david.nalewajek@gmail.com)

**Senior Chemists Committee**

Open

**Member-at-Large 2024-2025**

Lindsay Rose  
Niagara County Community College  
(716) 614-6866  
[lrose@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:lrose@niagaracc.suny.edu)

**Younger Chemists Committee**

Open

The Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and its editors assume no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors. Views expressed in the editorials are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society. All materials to appear in the next issue of *Double Bond* must be received by the editor, in care of the Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Canisius University, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14208, by the FIRST day of the month. Notice for change of address or email should be made through **ACS Member and Subscriber Services** at (800) 333-9511, [mailto:service@acs.org](mailto:mailto:service@acs.org) or the website: [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/contact.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/contact.html).

The *NF=B Double Bond* (aka *Double Bond*) is published from September through June by the WNY Section of the ACS. Contact information is at our website: <https://wnyacs.org>. Member subscriptions are included in the annual National ACS dues. Permission to reprint is granted for this publication.