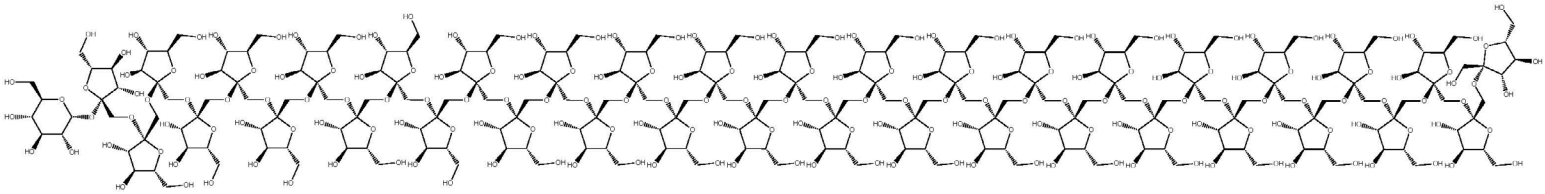
ACS Local Section
Silicon Valley

MAY 2026
VOLUME 49 NO. 5

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST



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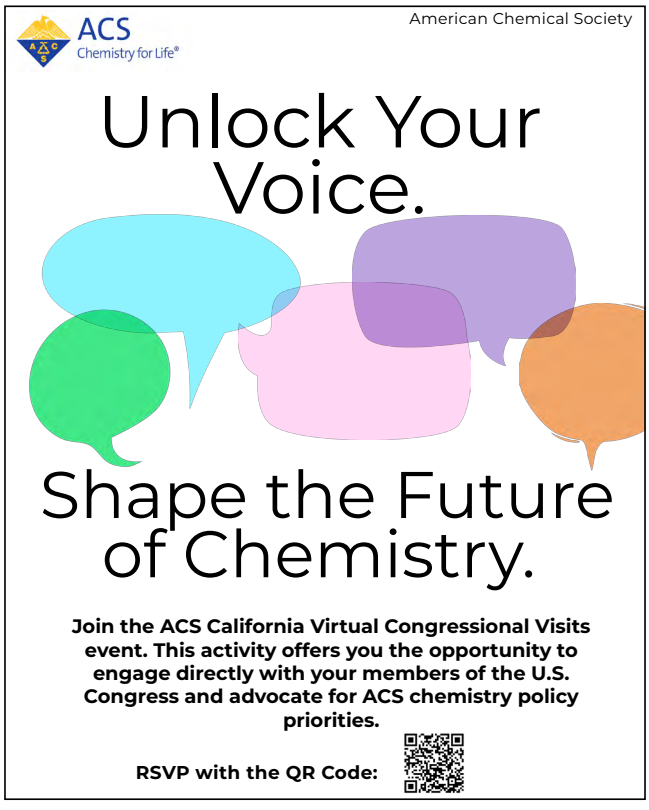
ACS California Virtual Congressional Visits: Fight for Chemistry with Us

RSVP Deadline: May 15, 2026 | *RSVP Here*

The ACS Government Affairs team is launching the ACS California Virtual Congressional Visits event. This activity offers ACS members in California the opportunity to learn more about ACS policy priorities and basic advocacy tools and engage directly with your members of Congress. Should you decide to participate in this activity, here is what you can expect:

Date	Activity
May 15th	RSVP
Week of May 18th	Staff will offer Zoom orientation meetings that conclude with you sending meeting requests
Week of June 1st	Staff will host office hours to answer any questions or provide guidance (staff will provide talking points, state sheets, and bios)
Week of June 15th	Aim to hold your meetings this week
Week of June 22nd	Debriefing sessions

As part of this activity, we will be advocating for a reauthorization of the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) user fees that expire September 30, 2026. Reauthorizing collection of TSCA user fees will expedite timely chemical reviews that support chemical innovation, including the design of safer and more sustainable chemicals. ***Learn more***



Call for Nominations
Shirley B. Radding Award

Deadline: May 31, 2026

The ***Shirley B. Radding Award*** was established in 1994 by our Section of ACS to recognize demonstrated leadership, service and significant contributions over a sustained period of time to industrial, applied, or academic chemistry, and to the American Chemical Society at local, regional and national levels. The award is named for Shirley B. Radding who was a charter member and long-time supporter of this Section. It currently consists of an engraved plaque and a check for $1000.

Nominate an ACS Member:

Recipients are selected based on the following criteria:

- Member of the American Chemical Society for more than 20 years.
- Demonstrated dedicated and unselfish service to ACS over a sustained period-of-time.
- Provided leadership through elected and appointed ACS positions at local, regional and national levels.
- Made significant contributions to industrial, applied or academic chemistry.

A nomination dossier consists of two letters of recommendation and a CV for the nominee.

Please submit your nomination dossier by May 31, 2026 to ***Natalie McClure*** and ***Awards@siliconvalleyacs.org***

For a list of recent recipients, please see our ***Shirley B. Radding Award page***.

Call for Nominations

2026 Abraham Ottenberg Service Award
Silicon Valley ACS Local Section

Deadline: May 31, 2026

The ***Ottenberg Award*** is presented annually to a member of our local section for outstanding service to the section.

Nominations include the nominee's biography, description of the service(s) for which the member is nominated, and a discussion or evaluation of the service to be recognized by the award. Nominations are not retained for subsequent years, but re-nominations are accepted for consideration. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive it again.

Please send your nomination by May 31, 2026 to ***PFRusch@aol.com*** and ***Awards@siliconvalleyacs.org***

Chair's Message

Natalie McClure

There is an old saying is that "April showers bring May flowers". That was certainly true this year with respect to the many showers. April also brings a month of science outreach for students. Our section participated in two large outreach events and hosted two smaller events. I estimate that over 3000 students did a science experiment or 3 with us this month.

The main event that Silicon Valley ACS hosts for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, is a multiple station chemistry outreach that we do at the Martin Luther King Children's Library in San Jose. This year we elaborated on the CCEW theme: Into the woods with chemistry and we had activities involving tree "cookies" showing tree internal structure and growth, capillary action and water surface tension, paper chromatography of ink and the always popular dry ice "Boo bubbles". The chemistry clubs and students from San Jose State and Santa Clara Universities volunteer their time to make this a great event. A big thank you is also due to Bridget Kowalczyk, Librarian at the Children's Library for her support and her advertising campaign. We had our biggest turnout since Covid with about 300 people attending.

This was our fifth year exhibiting at P.I.E.F.E.S.T (Pacific Islanders encouraging fun, Engineering, Science & Technology). P.I.E.F.E.S.T. is dedicated to improving Pacific Islander representation and increasing access to STEM related careers. Each year, this festival has grown in size and content. This year it was held at the San Mateo County convention hall and had over 3000 people attend. This year, they had added cultural dances from the Pacific Islands which made it especially fun. Jigisha Shah, Aneelman Brar, Mohit Saraswat and I made dry ice "Boo Bubbles", and used some of the experiments suggests for CCEW to demonstrate chemistry in the forests.

We also participated in the Santa Clara STEM Zone: Where Silicon Valley Sparks Innovation and Fun! This was a new event held by the City of Santa Clara, and the Santa Clara city library intended to build on the momentum of the Super Bowl and FIFA world cup events held in Santa Clara in 2026. This event included workshops, lectures, and many different science and technology tables. Our table was sandwiched between one hosted by the SF 49ers where participants explored helmet technology and made face guards out of pipe cleaners, a Santa Clara University FI racing team and a host of StarWars inspired robots. Amanda Nelson, Omer Sultan, and some Santa Clara library volunteers spent 6 hours showing the students how milk fats are disrupted by dishwashing soap ("Colors on the Move") and did paper chromatography of different ink pens. The organizers estimated that over 7000 people attended, although they might not have all stopped at our table.

Luckily, May has arrived and the ACS volunteers can take a break from outreach events until October's National Chemistry Week. These events are wonderfully fun and the smiles of the young students help give me optimism regarding the future. But I am happy for a few weekends without any chemistry events.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

2026 Top Ten Emerging Technologies in Chemistry

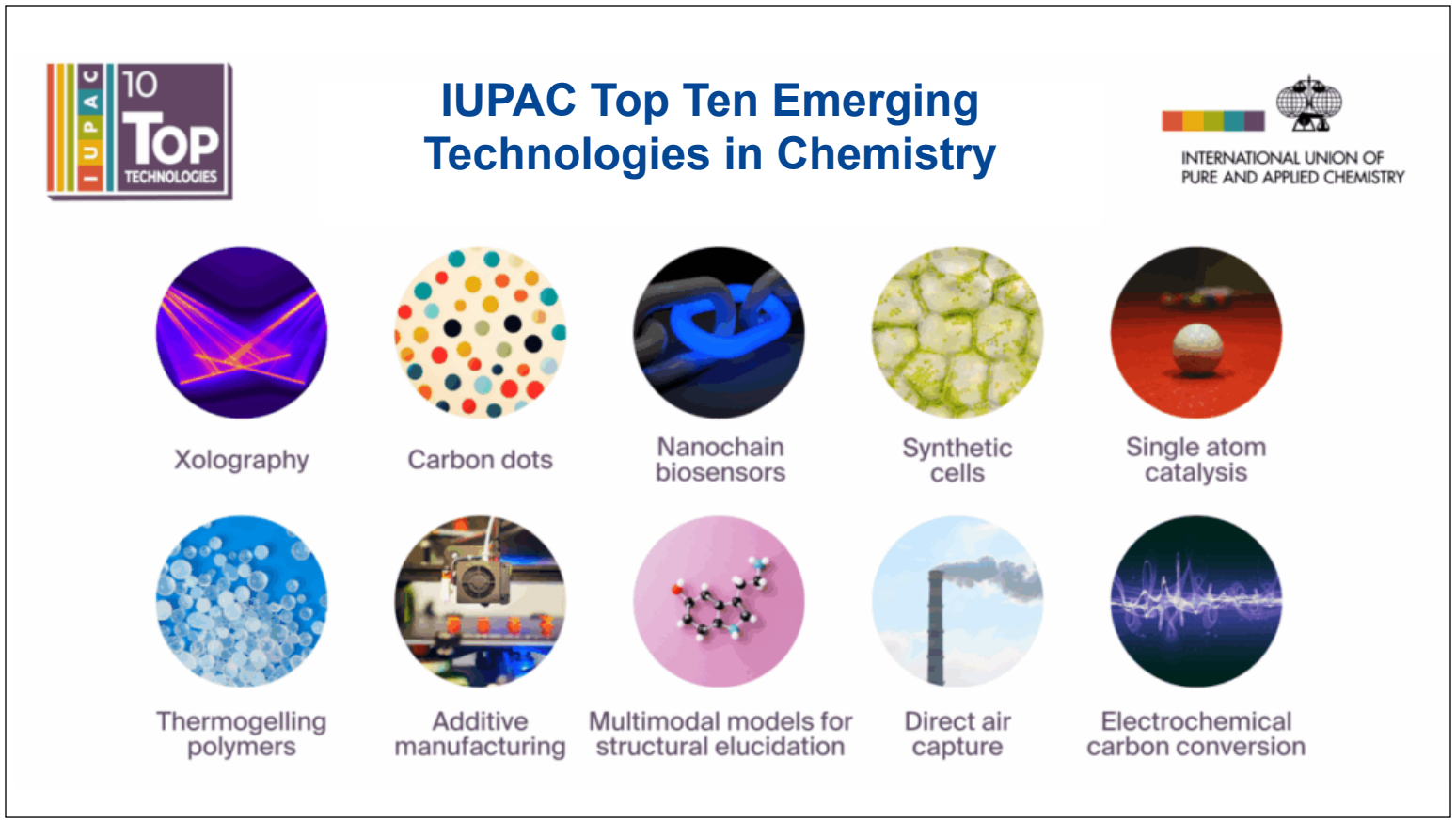
Nomination Deadline: May 31, 2026

ACS is pleased to support the *International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry* (IUPAC) in launching the call for nominations for the Top Ten Emerging Technologies in Chemistry 2026. This global initiative highlights cutting-edge innovations in chemistry with the potential to drive real-world impact. The opportunity is open to the global community - researchers, innovators, industry professionals, educators, and the wider public are all encouraged to submit nominations.

Submit a nomination | ***View previous award winners***

What is an "Emerging Technology?"

An "Emerging Technology" is one that is between a new scientific discovery and a fully-commercialized technology. It should involve a solid understanding of the technology, some type of prototype, or even better some start-ups working to commercialize the technology. But most importantly, the technology needs to be exciting, have the capacity to open up new opportunities in chemistry and beyond, and most importantly, help to solve major global problems – the focus of IUPAC's vision and mission. The term "chemistry" is used in its broadest sense, including material science, nanotechnology, and biochemistry. Bottom line, an emerging technology is a discovery that hovers between an embryonic "Eureka" moment in the lab and an industrial application.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/events/

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- May 2026 -

May 9 **Virology and Immunology of Emergent Arboviruses: Learning From the Patients**
Sandra Lopez Verges, PhD
Sponsored by California ACS, Women Chemists Committee
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free
Registration required | ***Download flyer***

May 14 **Mini-Chemical MBA: The Fine Print in Research & IP Agreements**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Division of Small Chemical Businesses
11:00 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, ***Registration required***

May 16 **Natural Dyes Workshop**
Sponsored by ***Farm Discovery at Live Earth***
10:00 am-2:00 pm, In-person (Ages 12+), Farm Discovery at Live Earth, Upper Farm, 172 Litchfield Lane, Watsonville, CA, Cost: $55,20, ***Purchase tickets***, Free Parking

May 18 **Light-Driven Fuel Production at Passivated Silicon Photoelectrodes**
Prof. Jillian Dempsey, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, In-person, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111)
Learn more

May 18 **Uncommon Material Combinations & Processing Methods for Improved Performance & New Applications of Common Polymers**
Prof. Gary E. Wnek, Case Western Reserve University
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
6:00-7:00 pm, Online, $0/$5 Donation
Register by May 17th at 1:00 pm

May 20 **Opportunities for Chemists in the Federal Government (ACS Careers Pathways Virtual Workshop)**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, ***Registration required***

May 28 **Achieving Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs): Reaching Compliance with Confidence for the Pharmaceutical Lab**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Office of Career and Professional Education
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, ***Registration required***

- June 2026 -

June 1 **Chemically and Financially Sustainable Methods for Chemical Synthesis**
Prof. Isaiah R. Speight, College of William and Mary
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, In-person, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111)
Learn more

June 1 **Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee Meeting**
Sponsored by the Silicon Valley ACS local section
7:00-8:30 pm, Hybrid Event, Free
Guests welcome: ***contact Chair*** to attend

June 10 **Make Your Science Stick: Why Facts Matter but Stories Move**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and BrandLab
11:00am-Noon, Online, Free, ***Registration required***

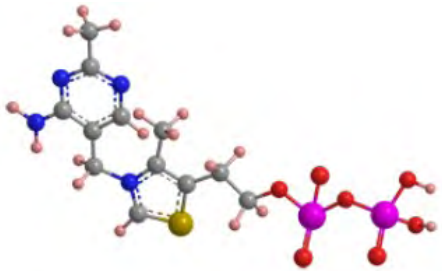
ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting

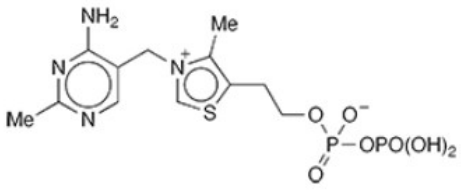
Chicago, IL & Digital, August 23-27

Book your hotel room now | Registration opens in May – ***Learn more***

CHEMISTRY Quiz

Your body produces me, but I may need to be supplemented. What molecule am I?





Answer

Paving the Path

Silicon Valley American Chemical Society

PtP Hybrid Career Panel Success

Enhanced by a Growing Number of Community College Partnerships

On March 16, 2026, over 180 attendees learned from the advice and experiences of 4 scientists who started their higher education journeys in community colleges. In a moderated discussion and Q&A led by Madalyn Radlauer, Ricki Menard (Manufacturing Chemist at Agilent Technologies), Lisa Olshansky (Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign), David Santiago Jr. (PhD student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), and Magi Yassa (Research Scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) provided insight on the benefits of their community college education. They described the challenges and gratification of transferring to a 4-year college and of building their careers in chemistry. They spoke of mentors, study groups, and research experiences that made a huge difference along the way and encouraged students to reach out to their teachers and to network with ACS to find research and internship opportunities. They also emphasized programs and conferences that helped them in their journeys.

In its third year as a hybrid event, the career panel was featured at eight watch parties distributed around the geography of our ACS local section. It was also viewed remotely by those who couldn't make it to a campus watch party. SVACS volunteers partnered with faculty and staff on those eight campuses: Cabrillo College (Aptos), CSU Monterey Bay, Evergreen College (San Jose), Foothill College (Los Altos), Gavilan College (Gilroy), Hartnell College (Salinas), Mission College (Santa Clara), and West Valley College (Saratoga). Each campus hosted a gathering of students to watch the Zoomed panel together, surrounded by pizza, networking, and community building. Once again this hybrid format proved successful as we expanded to a few new campuses. SVACS looks forward to continuing this event annually and to deepening our connections with our local community colleges.

About the Paving the Path Initiative

The Silicon Valley ACS Paving the Path (PtP) Initiative supports community college students majoring in chemistry-related fields, especially students in underrepresented groups in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and who plan to transfer to 4-year colleges. In addition to this annual virtual career panel, we are looking for sustainable ways to reach out to and promote opportunities for these students. Please email us at ptp@siliconvalleyacs.org with any suggestions, comments, or questions so that we can better serve our chemistry community.

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Shout out to our watch parties!

Cabrillo College

Cal State Monterey Bay

EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

GAVILAN COLLEGE

HARTNELL COLLEGE

MISSION COLLEGE SANTA CLARA

West Valley College

Professional Opportunities Shared at Hartnell Career Resource Fair

The Silicon Valley ACS booth at Hartnell Community College's Spring Career and Resource Fair was abuzz with periodic table admirers and questions about the connection between chemistry and careers. SVACS members Anais Nguyen, Steve Boyer, and Jane Frommer gladly described the chemistry foundations of agriculture, marine science, and nursing – just a few of the many professions represented at the fair on the Salinas campus. 300 students, 85 employers, and countless community members circulated in the student center on April 20, 2026.

The open and free event drew not only from the Hartnell student body and staff, but also from local high schools and the community at large to learn about full-time & part-time jobs, internships, public resources, volunteer opportunities, and college transfer information. Silicon Valley ACS was there to describe professional opportunities in science, and to foster everyone's interest in the chemistry in our lives. In addition to SVACS, welcoming organizations included the local school districts, Cal State U Monterey Bay, food-growers, medical facilities, and social service organizations.

Following the fair, the Hartnell chemistry club hosted Anais, Steve, and Jane in a chem lab setting for in-depth discussion of chemical professions. With the three representing three distinctly different areas of chemistry – safety, nanotechnology, and cheminformatics – conversation followed a wide path of topics and experiences. ACS National generously provided ACS student handouts and swag along with the colorful ***Celebrating Chemistry*** magazines to take home and read to younger children in English and Spanish.

SVACSers Anais Nguyen, Steve Boyer, and Jane Frommer are thanked by Hartnell's mascot for participating in the career fair

UC Santa Cruz Chemistry Club Earth Day Solar Printing Workshop

By Teran Baker, UCSC Chemistry Club

To celebrate Earth Day and Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW), the ***UCSC Chemistry Club***, UCSC's ACS student chapter, hosted a Solar Printing Workshop on campus on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own cotton or linen items to print on, pictured in the photos below.

Solar printing is the use of photosensitive compounds and materials to create artistic prints. This procedure emphasizes green chemistry; when compared to traditional photography techniques, solar printing highlights less hazardous chemical synthesis, prevention of waste, and design for energy efficiency.

In these solar printing experiments, the UCSC Chemistry Club examined two processes: cyanotype and anthotype. By comparing these two methods, we were able to look at the differences in chemical mechanisms and related scientific concepts.

Any solar printing process includes the steps of

- photo preparation - placing objects on the raw print out of sunlight
- exposure - photon energy changes the photosensitive molecules in the print
- processing or development - halting photosensitivity by washing the image in a specific solution

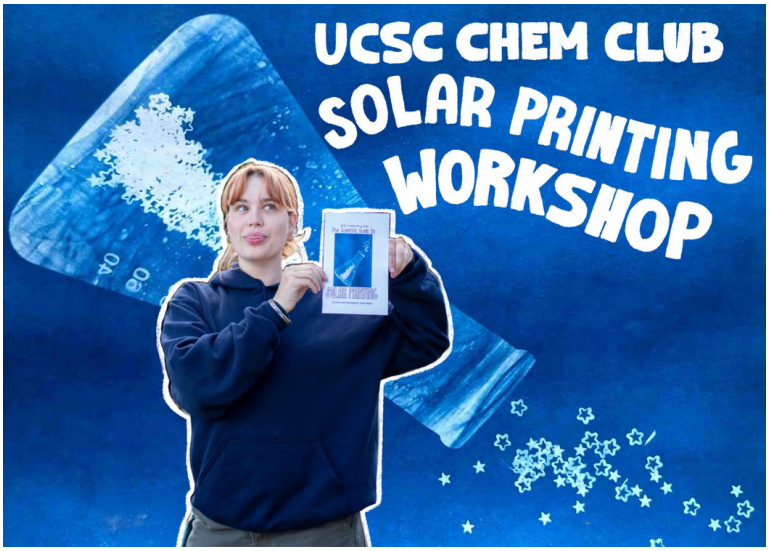
Cyanotype printing exemplifies oxidation/reduction (redox) reactions, having an iron (III) complex be excited by photons and undergo the redox reaction. The central Fe(III) atom oxidizes the oxalate anion to carbon dioxide while getting reduced to Fe(II), which then reacts with ferricyanide to form the stable pigment compound of Prussian Blue precipitate. When the image is later submerged in water, the precipitate is oxidized, which "fixes" the print, turning a negative into a positive photograph.

Anthotype printing uses the photosensitivity of natural products and plant matter. Our club used turmeric, which contains curcumin, as the base for the anthotype paint solution. When the painted paper is exposed to sunlight, it absorbs the photons' energy and degrades, bleaching as a result of electron reorganization to produce higher-energy oxygen forms. What is uncovered will lighten, and what is covered will stay pigmented. After the bleaching, the image is washed in a borate solution, stopping the photo-reaction.

This was a successful event for the UCSC Chemistry Club. Despite starting out as a gloomy day, this event had around 40 attendees and we created some beautiful pieces of scientific art, including both cyanotype and anthotype paper prints and cyanotype clothing pieces.

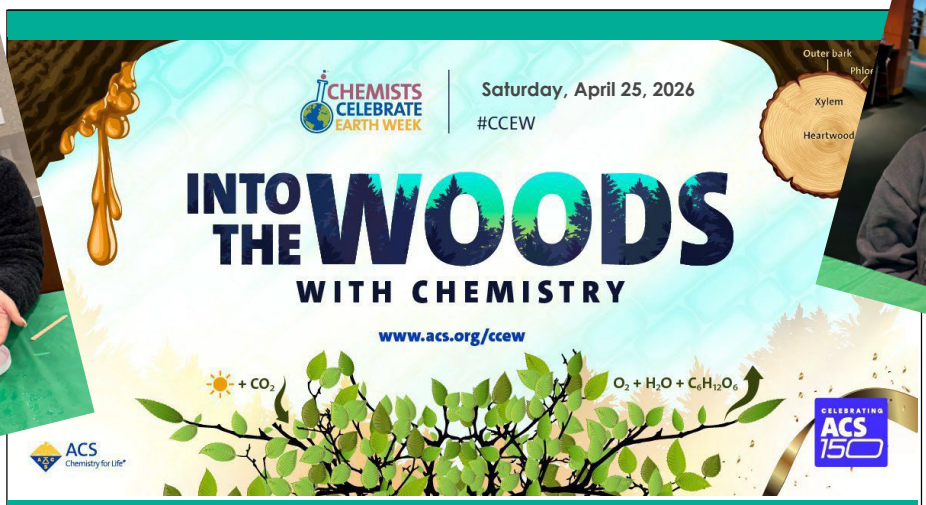
Events that connect science, art, and community are deeply special and important. Finding ways to prioritize these opportunities is not always easy, but definitely necessary. If you are interested in the materials or resources that went into creating this event, please reach out to chem club officer (and author of this article) Teran Baker, ***tembaker@ucsc.edu***. You can also find more information about solar printing ***here***.

Learn more about the UCSC Chemistry Club.



We Were There!

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week



CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK 2026

A FREE, interactive experience for kids of all ages and their families featuring:

Hands-on chemistry activities for kids exploring ice, glaciers and salt water. We will study glaciers, ice and oceans. You will make icebergs, glacier slime, saltwater rainbows, and figure out how to float LEGO® bricks on water.

- Free copy of "Celebrating Chemistry" the ACS publication for kids.
- PRIZES for every child who participates!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

Time 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

King Library, Children's Room
150 E. San Fernando
San José, CA 95112
(408) 808-2183

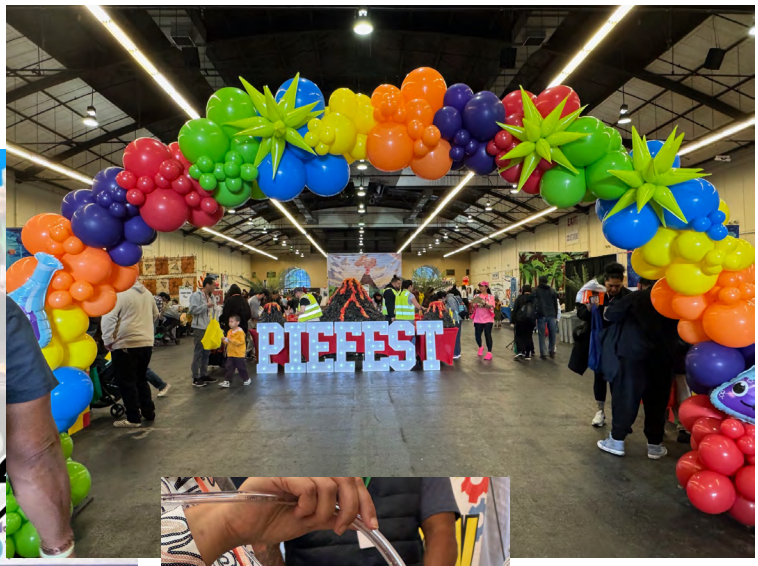
Learn more

To request an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for library events, please call 408-808-2355 or email Accessibility@sjlibrary.org at least one week prior to the event.

San José Public Library · City of San José, Capital of Silicon Valley · sjpl.org

We Were There!

P.I.E.F.E.S.T.



We Were There!

STEM Zone

ACS Committee on Ethics Celebrates 20 Years

"The ***ACS Committee on Ethics (ETHX)*** is proud to celebrate 20 years of service in commitment to Empowering Trust, Honesty, and Integrity for Chemistry and Society (ETHICS). Visit the ***website*** to learn about and join in special programming, events, and activities honoring this milestone throughout the year."

The Committee on Ethics promotes professional conduct through awareness, education, and recognition.

C&EN reporting on the ACS Committee on Ethics:

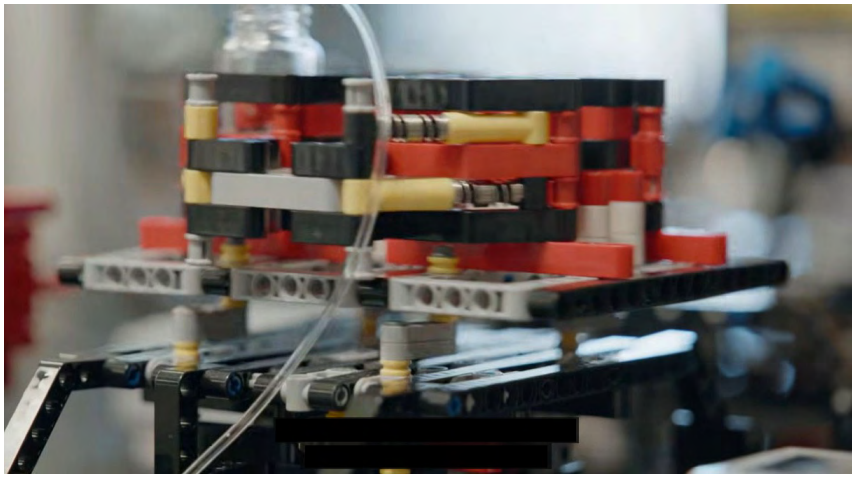
- "***Integrity advances chemistry***" by Glenn Larkin, *Chemical & Engineering News*, February 2, 2026
- "***Promoting professionalism in the chemistry enterprise***" by Glenn Larkin, *Chemical & Engineering News*, December 5, 2024 (volume 102, issue 38)
- "***Finding your place in ACS: Opportunities for engagement with the ACS Committee on Ethics***" by Patricia A. Mabrouk, *Chemical & Engineering News*, August 10, 2023 (volume 101, issue 26)
- "***What's ethics got to do with it?***" by William Leong, *Chemical & Engineering News*, May 16, 2021 (volume 99, issue 18)

The ACS Committee on Ethics sponsors an annual ***Chemluminary Award***. The Silicon Valley local section was the first recipient of ***this award*** (see bottom of this page) in 2019 for their 2018 production of the performance ***No Belles*** to over 1000 attendees on 4 local college campuses in the SVACS region. The Portal Theatre company performed No Belles, telling the stories of female scientists who have and have not received the Nobel Prize, raising awareness of behaviors that result in gender imbalance in STEM fields. The performances also celebrated the achievements of women who persevered.

ACS Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemical Safety and Ethics: June 1st Nomination Deadline

This award recognizes senior undergraduates who have actively demonstrated the connection between chemical safety and ethical conduct. ***Nominations for the 2026 ACS Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemical Safety and Ethics are now open until June 1, 2026***. For questions, contact LaToya Rembert-Lang at ***ETHX@acs.org***.

Celebrating ACS 150th Anniversary



The Future of Chemistry is Interdisciplinary - ***Watch this video on YouTube***

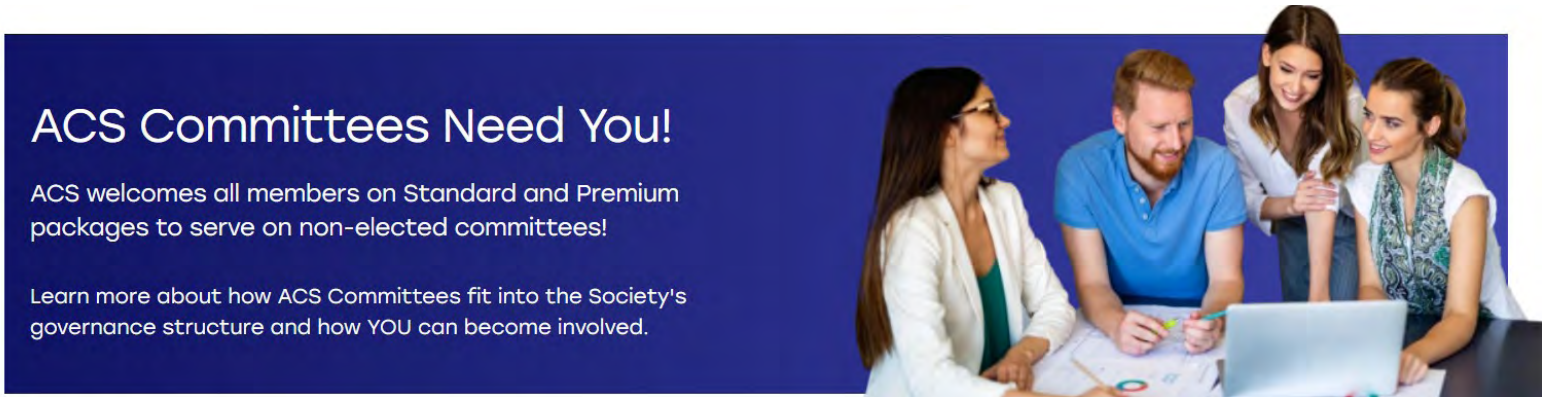
Carson Bruns, Ph.D., is an artist with a penchant for tattoos. He's also an organic chemist and a nanoengineer. His interdisciplinary research has led to incredible new biosensor inks for smart tattoos that can be turned on and off by light.

In addition to his positions as Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Laboratory for Emergent Nanomaterials at the University of Colorado Boulder, Dr. Bruns is the Chief Scientific Officer of HYPRSKN, a company that makes innovative tattoo inks and skin health products.

BrandLab Leadership Quiz - Identifying what kind of leader you are and the next steps in your leadership journey. ***Take the quiz***

About ACS 150

Did you know ACS turns 150 in 2026? This video and quiz are a part of a yearlong series shaped by the American Chemical Society's enduring core values — passion for science, inclusion and belonging, lifelong learning, and sustainability — celebrating ACS' 150th anniversary and featuring ACS members from around the world. Learn more at ***http://www.acs.org/150.*** To view the 150th Anniversary Collection, visit ***https://www.acs.org/acs-150th-anniversary.html***



Interested in Serving on an ACS National Committee in 2027?

Deadline: July 6, 2026

The process for selecting ***ACS Council–related committee*** appointments for 2027 is now underway. If you are interested in serving on an ACS National Committee, please complete the ***online committee preference form***, which allows you to indicate your committee interests, background, and relevant experience.

The form is available at ***http://www.cmte.acs.org*** and will remain open through July 6, 2026.

As you submit your preferences, please keep the following in mind:

- Individuals completing a term or reaching a committee's statutory limit are asked to submit the form to reaffirm their interest in continued service.
- Your ACS membership must be in good standing to complete your committee preferences.
- Select only those committees for which you can actively engage and attend meetings, whether virtually or in-person. ACS committees are working committees; attendance (virtually or in-person) and participation at committee and subcommittee meetings are important.
- Most initial appointments are one-year, non-voting associate positions. Associates submit the form each year to be considered for reappointment.
- Consultants are appointed for one-year terms and must have a clearly defined role or project.
    - Associates and consultants participate fully in discussions and subcommittee work but do not vote on official committee motions.

As part of the appointment process, the Committee on Committees (ConC) seeks broad representation across the Society. Diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives help ensure ACS remains effective and forward-looking.

Preference submissions are reviewed by ConC as it prepares recommendations during the ACS Fall Meeting. Final appointments are made by the ACS President and/or Board Chair in late fall. While not all applicants can be appointed, each submission will receive full consideration.

If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Secretary at ***secretary@acs.org***. Thank you for your interest and for your service to the Society.

Sincerely,
Brian Mathes, Chair
ACS Committee on Committees (ConC) and
Carmen Valdez Gauthier, Chair
Committee Appointment Systems Improvement (CASI) Working Group

Communicating Science

Current and Recent Grad Students: Apply Now for ComSciCon Create-a-Thon

Application Deadline: June 15, 2026

ComSciCon supports current and recent graduate students who are interested in communicating science and related topics to the general public, students, and chemical professionals and who are already planning on attending ACS Fall 2026. Little or no previous professional science communication experience required.

On Tuesday, August 24, 2026, at the ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting, the ComSciCon program will feature two sessions. The morning session will be open to all ACS Fall 2026 participants and features a career panel, outreach workshop, and more. The afternoon will be a closed working session for Create-a-thon participants only.

Selected participants will be paired with a mentor to refine an idea into a professional-quality article, script, or other form of communication, as well as learn how to build a career in science communication. Participants may also be able to publish their work.

To be eligible, you must be:

- Enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in chemistry or an allied field, or have completed such a program within the past year
- Current ACS member - student or regular - with a premium package membership
- Attending ACS Fall 2026 in-person

Please note that there are no funds available to support travel. Applicants must secure their own travel and registration.

Learn more and apply

ACS Statement on the Dismissal of National Science Board Members

"The American Chemical Society (ACS) is deeply concerned that all members of the National Science Board (NSB) have been removed prior to the completion of their terms. Established in 1950 by an act of Congress, NSB plays a critical role in providing independent, expert guidance to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and to policymakers on the nation's research enterprise.

Termination of NSB members continues a troubling recent trend to dissolve scientific advisory bodies. Such actions remove key nonpartisan oversight of U.S. investments in fundamental science and counsel to federal agencies. Maintaining confidence in the integrity, independence, and continuity of scientific advisory bodies is essential to sustaining U.S. leadership in research, innovation, global competitiveness, defense, public health, energy security, and environmental progress. The U.S. has benefited for decades from a strong partnership between the federal government and the scientific community, supported in large part by NSF and guided by NSB.

ACS will continue to advocate for independent advisory bodies that guide U.S. science and stand ready to work with policymakers and stakeholders to strengthen the U.S. research ecosystem and uphold rigorous, evidence-based decision-making."

Source: ***https://www.acs.org/policy/washington-science/2026-public-comments/2026-acs-statement-nsb-firings.html*** (April 27, 2026)

Other recent ACS advocacy letters:

ACS Endorses the Safer Choice Program Authorization Act (April 28, 2026)

ACS Joins Coalition of Chemical Organizations to Advocate for Adequate Funding for the EPA's OCSPP (Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention) (April 27, 2026)

ACS Joins the ALI (Alliance for Learning Innovation) in Urging Congress to Include Education R&D Funding in FY 2027 Appropriations (April 1, 2026)

ACS Urges House Leadership to Fully Fund the EPA's S&T Account | ACS Urges Senate Leadership to Fully Fund the EPA's S&T Account (March 26, 2026)

ACS Joins the Coalition for National Science Funding to Urge Congress to Provide Robust Funding to NSF in FY2027 (March 20, 2026)

ACS Joins the American Alliance for Innovation to Support the Reauthorization of TSCA (March 17, 2026)

ACS Urges Congressional Leadership to Pass the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act (March 5, 2026)

ACS Responds to a DOE Request for Information on Advancing the Future AI and Engineering Workforce (March 4, 2026)

View more

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Brought to You by the National Science Foundation

"Next time you talk on a cell phone, hear a weather report, search the web, or get an MRI, remember the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) helped make that all possible, and more.

Since 1950, NSF has invested in ideas and innovations that have shaped the modern world — pushing the boundaries of what's possible and deepening humanity's understanding of the world.

Explore NSF-supported research across all fields of science and engineering that power the American economy and touch everyone's lives. ***Learn more about NSF's support for***:

3D printing
American Sign Language
Artificial intelligence
Bolstering small businesses
Boosting crops with biotechnology
CAPTCHA and reCAPTCHA
CRISPR
Cybersecurity
Deep-ocean exploration
Detecting gravitational waves
DNA amplification
Doppler radar
Duolingo
Fusion energy
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
The internet
Kidney matching
LASIK eye surgery
Learning beyond the classroom
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
Natural hazards research: From risk to resilience
Polymers: Building tomorrow's materials
Protein Data Bank: Key to the molecules of life
Quantum technology
rDNA and insulin
Seeing black holes
Semiconductors
Smartphones
Supercomputers

Recognition for Graduate Student and Postdoc Leadership in Chemical Sciences

Deadline: May 31, 2026

"The Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholars Recognition Program honors exceptional leadership in the chemical sciences. Departments worldwide may nominate current graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who demonstrate impact in five categories: Mentoring, Inclusion and Belonging, Research Safety, Science Outreach and Engagement, and Science Advocacy.

New this year, Outreach and Advocacy recognize efforts that promote chemistry through public engagement and strengthen support for science through policy and community leadership. Each department may nominate one graduate student and one postdoctoral scholar per category. The nomination period opens March 2, 2026, and closes May 31, 2026." ***Nominate here***

Reactions: Chemistry Science Videos

Uncover the chemistry in everyday life

"***Reactions Chemistry Science Videos*** break things down to the molecular level to show you the chemical reactions that shape our world. And we don't stop until we're satisfied … or someone almost sets their basement on fire."

I Made Leather Out of Eggs Because of Dinosaurs

Watch Video on YouTube

"Scientists found collagen preserved in dinosaur bones that are millions of years old, which shouldn't be possible since peptide bonds have a half-life of around 500 years. So naturally Alex goes on a journey to stabilize collagen herself. With eggs. Like you do."

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You might also be interested in

Chain Reaction by ACS

Discover Chemistry's journey from alchemy to modern innovations.

❖ ❖ ❖

Headline Science

A video series spotlighting new and interesting chemistry research in a concise and shareable format.

❖ ❖ ❖

ACS Chemistry for Life®
American Chemical Society

CH&S Connecting Chemistry and Safety | I&EC Industrial & Engineering Chemistry | ACS150 | ACS Committee Chemical Safety

RESEARCH FACULTY SAFETY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

*Join us for a **prestigious, hands-on, and nationally impactful professional development program** designed for faculty who want to strengthen their leadership in academic research safety.*

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Selective Opportunity
Participation signals leadership and protects your lab's reputation—useful in annual reviews and chair conversations.

Tangible Takeaways
Leave with a Lab Safety Plan, a 30/60/90 day action plan, grant-ready safety language, and a budget template for safety items.

Tools Adapted from Industry
Learn how to apply the RAMP® framework to What-If analyses, observation checklists, and near-miss learning systems.

Mentorship Training
Develop practical skills for coaching, giving feedback, and building accountability.

Networking
Connect with a national network of peers committed to research excellence and student well-being.

Financial Support and Recognition
$500 honorarium available, as well as certificates of participation or recognition letters upon request.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Faculty who **supervise research groups, mentor graduate students, or influence departmental safety expectations** are invited to apply for this 3.5-hour in-person Workshop!

Scan QR Code to apply by June 1!

August 23, 2026
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM CT

ACS Fall 2026
Chicago, Illinois

Contact **safety@acs.org** with questions.

C&EN's Stereo Chemistry

Covering stories on innovation, policy, and discovery.

Tiny Matters

A podcast about the small science of big thing

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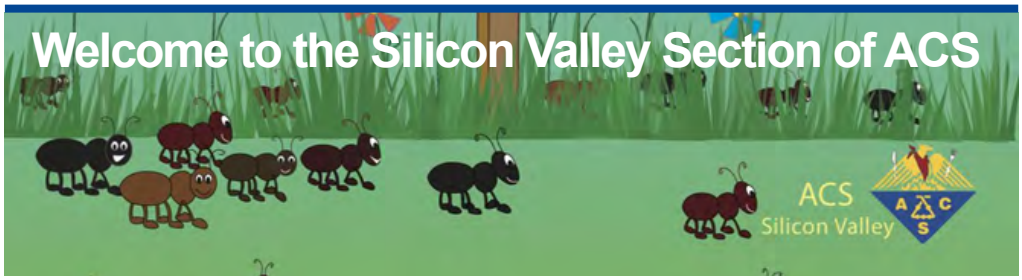
30TH ANNUAL
GREEN CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SAN ANTONIO, TX | JUNE 15-18, 2026

In partnership with the International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry (ICGSC).

Advanced Registration Ends May 14, 2026

Register Now for the 30th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference | Advanced registration savings end May 14 for the GC&E Conference, which will be held June 15-18, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas. This year's conference theme, "Building the Future: Sustainable Chemistry for Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure," aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goal 9 and highlights how green chemistry and engineering can drive industrial transformation, resilient infrastructure, and responsible innovation at scale. ***Learn more and register***



Each month, our Silicon Valley local ACS section receives a spreadsheet from national ACS with the names of members new to our section. The members are either new to ACS, have transferred in from other areas, or are the newest chemists - students. As a welcoming gesture, the SVACS Executive Committee offers new members free attendance at a catered SVACS event. Come join us at our in-person gatherings. To register as our guest for a catered event, ***contact us*** directly to receive complimentary admission for you and a friend.

Join us for an outreach activity, like judging a science fair, proctoring the high school Chemistry Olympiad, or participating in National Chemistry Week hands-on experiments.

The Silicon Valley local section is a volunteer organization.

Attend an event, volunteer to help, and get to know your local fellow chemists!

New SVACS Members

Ashton Aleman
Ayooluwateso Coker
Steven M. Corsello
Ryan Donnelly
Jingshan Du
Suman Gunasekaran
Robert Paul Kennedy
Stuart Koretz
Christine Lee
Bala Manian
Milana Meyer
Matthew Miyada
Riddhish Pandharkar
Maximiliano Perez
Philip Rosenblum
Mengting Sun
Eric Weeda

Contributors to this Issue

Teran Baker
Grace Baysinger
Jane Frommer
Natalie McClure
Anais Nguyen
Madalyn Radlauer
Peter Rusch
Jigisha Shah

Engineering the Overlooked

Teaching, for Tarpeh, begins with giving students the freedom to explore. Photo: Jess Alvarenga

This article is a reprint that was originally published in Stanford Momentum on March 20, 2026 (which includes more images). Prof. Tarpeh was a keynote speaker at the ACS Western Regional Meeting held in San Jose in October 2025.

"As a Stanford undergraduate, William Tarpeh learned to spot problems others ignore. Financial aid gave him a path forward—all the way to a MacArthur Fellowship.

When your research subject is human waste, there's a certain point at which delicacy becomes beside the point. As a PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley, William Tarpeh needed large quantities of the stuff. He was studying how to recover nitrogen from urine—an idea that treats one of the most universal human waste streams as a potential resource. So he taped a sign above the lab's collection containers: Urine luck! Today's your day to donate.

The joke did its job. It also hinted at something deeper: a curiosity about what most people prefer not to think about, and an ability to see possibility where others see waste. That instinct would come to define Tarpeh's work—and, eventually, earn him one of the most coveted recognitions in American science.

Last October, Tarpeh—now a professor of chemical engineering at Stanford—learned he had been named a MacArthur Fellow. The award, often referred to as a "genius grant," recognizes people who combine intellectual range with a tolerance for slow, unglamorous problems. Sanitation research qualifies on both counts.

Tarpeh's path to that work began years earlier, when he arrived at Stanford as an undergraduate in 2008. He knew he wanted to be an engineer. He also knew that engineering, to him, was only interesting if it intersected with the world's messier failures.

"At 18, my definition of a big problem wasn't that different from now," he says. "Something that could drastically improve a lot of people's lives. Clean water, sanitation, global poverty, global hunger."

Stanford did not push him toward a narrower version of those ambitions. Instead, it encouraged him to roam. Tarpeh majored in chemical engineering but spent significant time elsewhere, minoring in African studies, studying abroad in Cape Town, and building friendships far outside the engineering quad.

"I chose Stanford because I wanted to be around people who weren't just scientists and engineers," he says. "Most quarters I took at least one class outside engineering."

That intellectual cross-training mattered. Alongside thermodynamics and fluid mechanics, Tarpeh was learning how history, economics, and political power shape infrastructure—and how engineering solutions often fail when they ignore those forces. Over time, three interests began to converge: chemical engineering and sustainability; the history of South Africa; and water engineering and public health.

"If you combine them," he says, "that's basically what I do now."

That sense that these interests could cohere into a life's work snapped into focus in a small seminar on water engineering and public health, taught by Professor Jenna Davis. Tarpeh had a simple realization: This wasn't a side interest—it was a field. "Jenna studies this all the time," he recalls. "You can make a whole career out of this."

The moment offered something like permission. Sanitation and water systems—underfunded, politically invisible, rarely glamorous—could sit at the center of serious scholarship. Tarpeh leaned in. He joined ***Engineers for a Sustainable World***, spent a summer in Mexico with a toilet nonprofit, and began mapping engineering abstractions onto problems he actually cared about.

"Once those connections clicked," he says, "I felt confident that the skills I was learning could help me scope problems I could actually attempt to solve."

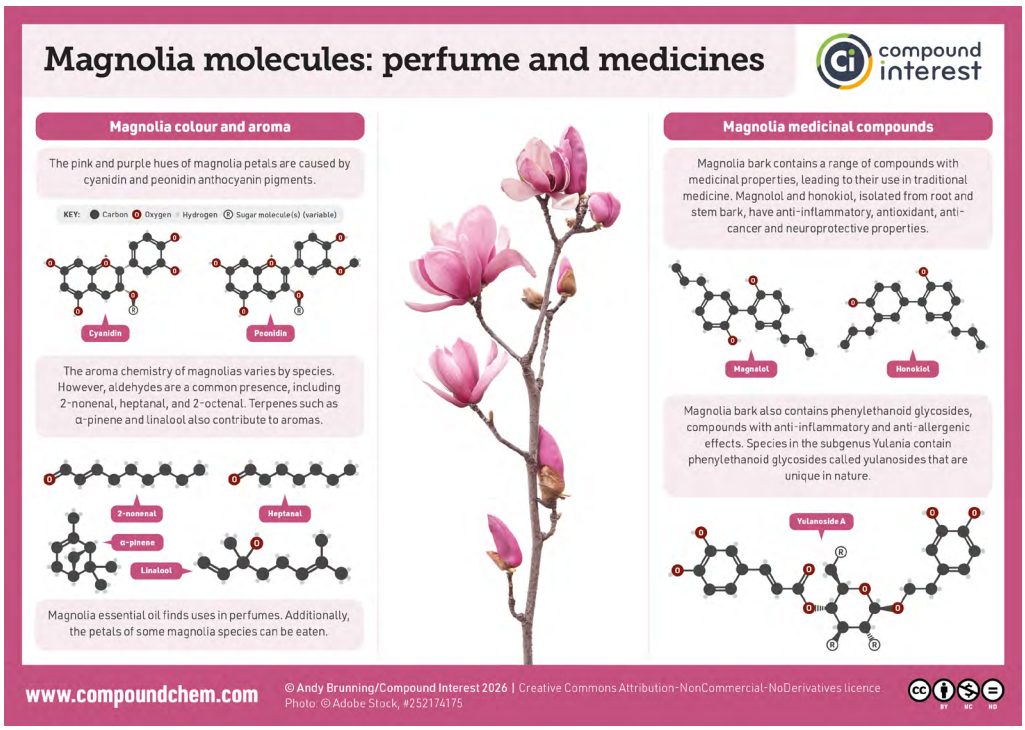
Those habits of mind now define Tarpeh's research. He approaches engineering problems as social systems with pipes attached, shaped as much by economics and maintenance realities as by chemistry. Stanford, he says, taught him not just how to solve problems, but how to notice the right ones.

At the center of his lab's work is an eye-opening fact: Wastewater is loaded with valuable elements. Nitrogen is a prime example. It's a major pollutant in rivers and lakes—and a critical ingredient in fertilizers that sustain global agriculture. Modern society spends enormous energy pulling nitrogen from the air to make fertilizer, then spends more energy removing nitrogen from wastewater before releasing it back into the environment.

Tarpeh's research asks, *is there a better way?* His lab develops electrochemical systems that recover nitrogen in usable forms, converting a regulatory burden into a productive resource. One prototype captures fertilizer from urine using solar energy, reducing pollution while producing an agricultural input—an approach with particular promise in places where infrastructure is limited and fertilizer is expensive.

"My goal," Tarpeh has said, "is to get sanitation to a point where it pays for itself."

It's deceptively radical, the idea that waste might underwrite its own management. The MacArthur Foundation cited this capacity to rethink entrenched systems—and to do so with tools that are technically rigorous and practically scalable—in awarding Tarpeh the fellowship."



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