



## SPENCER AWARD CEREMONY AND DINNER: SEPT. 29, 2022

**WHAT:** The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenneth A Spencer Award Banquet

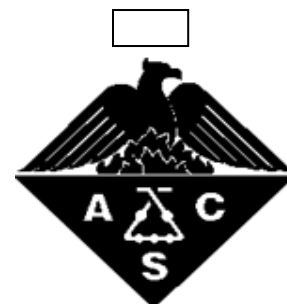
**WHEN:** September 29, 2022; Social: 5:30pm; Dinner Buffet: 6:00pm

**WHERE:** Fulkerson Center, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph MO

**AWARD RECIPIENT & PRESENTER:** **Dr. H.N. Cheng**, retired from the USDA Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans

**TALK TITLE:** "Research and Career Opportunities in Food and Agriculture" (Please see the Abstract below.)

**MENU:** The Buffet will include Fish, Chicken, Beef and Vegetarian options along with sides, dessert, and soft drinks. Cost is FREE for Students & Post-Docs; \$10 for Teachers, Professors & Retirees and \$20 for all other attendees. There will also be Wine and Beer available to purchase.



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### ABSTRACT:

To help provide food and nutrition to the world's growing population, research and development efforts are critically needed in food and agriculture, e.g., to improve crop yields and farmland productivity, reduce plant pests and diseases, enhance food quality and safety, and develop new and improved uses for agricultural materials. In fact, because of increasing public concerns for environmental pollution and microplastics, there is a lot of interest in using agro-based raw materials or byproducts for new or existing applications. These materials are beneficial because they tend to be sustainable and biodegradable. In this talk, several stories will be told about the research efforts involving agro-based materials, such as the utilization of agricultural byproducts and waste, more biodegradable food packaging, new blends and composites involving biobased polymers, new products from modification reactions, and new uses of nanocellulose. This is a rich field for innovation and will likely stay productive in the future. A student looking for an interesting and rewarding career can find many opportunities in this field. In particular, the speaker will provide some guidance and advice on jobs and career opportunities relating to science and technology.

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**ACS-KANSAS CITY SECTION MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**Connecting Kansas City chemistry professionals with opportunities for lifelong success.**

### Inside this issue:

Spencer Award	p1
Abstract of Talk	p1
Dr. Cheng Bio	p2
Upcoming Events	p2
Councilor Talk. Points and Stand. Comm/Chairs	p3
Exec. Board Members	p4

## **SPENCER AWARD 2022: September 29, MWSU Fulkerson Center** **BIOGRAPHY OF OUR AWARD RECIPIENT:**

H. N. Cheng received a B.S. degree (chemistry) from UCLA and a PhD degree (physical chemistry) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to his recent retirement (in May 2022), he worked at USDA Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans. For many years, he carried out research on the reactions, applications, and characterization of agro-based materials. In particular, he and his collaborators emphasized sustainable green chemistry as a platform to develop more eco-friendly and sustainable products. He was selected as an ACS Fellow (2009), a Fellow of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (2010), and a Fellow of the ACS Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division (2018). He was chosen as the Outstanding Scientist of the Year at USDA Southern Regional Research Center in 2014 and in 2019. He has authored or co-authored 300 papers and 26 patent publications. He has organized 45 symposia at national meetings since 2000 and edited 23 books.

In addition to his scientific work, he is active at ACS and has served in several ACS leadership positions at the national level, in local sections, and in technical divisions. He was ACS President in 2021. During his presidential year, he championed the cause of chemistry, emphasizing the importance of innovation, disciplinary growth, sustainability, and digitization. Moreover, he was active in organizing webinars and symposia to benefit ACS members and the chemistry enterprise.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

***Monthly Membership Meeting: Tuesday, October 18, 22. We will meet at Jowler Creek Vineyard & Winery at 6:00pm for light snacks, wine tasting and a tour of the winery, vineyard, and venue. Stay tuned for more details in October's KCC!***

### **ACS 2022 Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM)**

**Iowa City, IA October 19-21, 2022**

**General Chairs**

Tori Forbes

**Program Chairs**

Renee Cole

**About MWRM:** The local Iowa Section will be hosting the 2022 Midwest Regional Meeting for the American Chemical Society in Iowa City, IA on October 19-21, 2022. The theme for this year's meeting is "Sustainable Chemistry: Leading Through Change" and will feature plenary speakers, exciting technical sessions, poster sessions, social events, vendor expo, and networking opportunities. We will also be co-hosting events with the Midwest Section of the American Scientific Glassblowers Society and organizing chemistry education workshops.

**National Chemistry Week: Oct. 16-22, 2022 Theme: "Fabulous Fibers: The Chemistry of Fabrics**  
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ncw/about.html>

National Chemistry Week is a community-based program of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Explore how fibers become fabrics and their amazing properties. Learn about natural fibers as well as synthetic fibers.

## **Councilor Talking Points**

**These are from the ACS Council meeting held in Chicago on August 19-24, 2022.**

Please visit our website: [www.acs-kc.com](http://www.acs-kc.com) for the full transcript. The Chicago National meeting was a hybrid. The presentations were both in-person and remote. The Council announced the Spring 2023 National meeting will also be hybrid. Council Special Discussion President Wilson introduced and led a special discussion on "ACS for the Future." She sought Councilor input on positive initiatives, programs or events that would greatly benefit ACS members and ACS at large. Three specific questions were posed: 1. What can be accomplished to enhance the ACS experience? 2. Why or how do you think that would make a difference? 3. Who would be tasked with leading the effort (e.g., a section, committee, division, or other)?

## *ACS-KC Section Standing Committees & Chairs*

**Please consider volunteering on one (or more) of our committees! We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and contribution!**

**\*Please contact Gary Clapp ([geclapp424@yahoo.com](mailto:geclapp424@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in joining one of the committees or chairing one of the "open" committee positions.**

**We thank you and welcome your input and assistance!!**



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SEPTEMBER 2022  
American Chemical Society  
Kansas City Chemist  
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