October 2025

Volume 77 Issue 3

**ACS**

 Chemistry for Life

Please RSVP to Sarah Leibowitz: sleibowitzacs@gmail.com by Saturday, October 8, 2025.

Thank you!

**Inside this issue**:

Spencer Award p1

Bio/Abstract Upcoming Events p2

Comm. Chairs p3

Exec. Board Members p4

**ACS-KC Section Annual Spencer award ceremony**

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**Dr. Gary List, Spencer Award Winner 2025**

**When: Thursday, October 16, 2025; 5:30pm Social; 6:00pm Buffet**

**Where: Grand Street Cafe, 4740 Grand Ave., KCMO**

**Award recipient: Dr. Gary List, Consultant to the Food and Agribusiness Industry; Former Lead Scientist – National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research**

**Title: “Thermodynamic Properties of Triglycerides: Experiments and Models”**

**Menu: After an array of appetizers and a cash bar, we will be treated to a Buffet Style Dinner featuring House Salad; Roasted Mushroom Risotto + Creamy Goat Cheese Polenta; Brussel Sprouts + Grilled Broccolini; Marinated Grilled Sirloin, Chicken Parmesan, and Shrimp & Chorizo Paella. Wine will be offered on each table for your enjoyment.**

**COST: Free for students & post docs (if a reservation has been made, otherwise, $10); $10 for teachers, professors, & retirees; $20 for all other attendees.**

**RSVP: Please RSVP to Sarah Leibowitz:** **sleibowitzacs@gmail.com** **by October 8th.**

**The Kenneth A. Spencer Award for outstanding achievement in agricultural and food chemistry** was founded in 1955. It is recognized as one of the most prestigious awards presented to chemists working in many agricultural and food science areas. The award endorses meritorious contributions by scientists in academia and industry. For more than 60 years, the outstanding achievements of the Awardees have continued to establish the great reputation of the Spencer Award within the United Sates of America.

* **AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 1876-2025**
* **149 YEARS**
* **\*Make sure to check out our website!!**
* **www.acs-kc.com**

the kc chemist

**Chair Elect**

**Dr. Thomas Metz was born in Emporia Kansas in 1942. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Emporia Kansas State University in 1964. He then earned his PhD from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1971. He worked at Bayer Crop Science from 1970-2006 and is now a part time teacher at MCCKC, Longview, and has been since 2006. His ACS experience includes being Secretary from 1979-1980; Chair-Elect in 1981; Chair in 1982; and Councilor from 1983-1998. Dr. Metz is interested in expanding the representation in the KC section and bringing some fresh life to the section. He will attempt to get guest speakers from our local Universities, MRI, and Industry. He prefers to keep favorite spots for meetings like our local brewery and winery, but also will look to add some dinner meetings. He looks forward to working with the Executive Committee to achieve these and other goals to energize the section.**

**Secretary**

**Dr. Gregory D. Claycomb is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Park University. He teaches general, analytical, and physical chemistry courses as well as introductory physics. He is dedicated to providing a quality education in the classroom, and often works with students outside of the classroom by mentoring them in research related to the chemical analysis of food products. In addition to working with Park students, he serves the high school chemistry community by acting as the coordinator of the KC-ACS USNCO, the High School Chemistry Olympiad. He was educated first at the University of New Mexico, and then at Kansas State University where he studied the chemistry solid surfaces and received the degree of PhD in 2006.**

**Treasurer**

**Dr. Gary Clapp is the President & CEO of the Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences and of DT Search and Design which are both located in the Kit Bond Science and Technology Incubator on Missouri Western State University’s campus. He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1984, and his PhD from Oregon State University in 1990. For the past 20 years, Dr. Clapp has been involved with many operational activities of independent businesses performing laboratory testing and research development in support of human and animal pharmaceutical drug development operations for Aptuit, AAI Development Services, Oread Laboratories and Hauser Chemical Research. Dr. Clapp’s duties included oversight and supervision of work performed in Biotechnology, BioAnalytical, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pilot Plants and Preformulation/Formulation for pharmaceutical solid dosage forms. He has been an active member of the ACS for 26 years and has served as an officer in the KC section for the past 12 as Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Chairman. Dr. Clapp has also served as an invited technical reviewer on numerous National Institute of Health (NIH) technical evaluation committees. In addition, he has served as the Chairman for the western region of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL).**

**Councilor**

**Dr. Eckhard Hellmuth is asking for your vote at the end of his second term as Councilor (’06-’11). He would be sincerely honored to represent the Section in serving on the ACS Council for a second three year term; the continuation of his work on the Bylaws & Constitution (B&C) Committee of the ACS depends on winning your support. He hopes to interact with everyone for a few more years. For many years he had the great pleasure to work closely with Chemists at the local and national level. Together he hopes to explore ways and means in identifying goals, and areas of interest of our members. “How can we find better, more relevant activities to suit your needs? How can we facilitate better interactions, more networking opportunities, scientific & technical task exchanges, and last but not least, social contacts between us, you, and your colleagues in Engineering and the Sciences in the large geographical area of the Section?” Dr. Hellmuth has served as Chair (’02, ’05), Secretary (’68), Alternate Councilor (’03-’05), and as Chair of many Section Committees including Education (70’s, 80’s), Science Start-Up (90’s), SEED (70’s, ‘00’s), and Program Committee (‘98-present). He also committed many hours to planning and administration of our 2001-2011 Spencer Awards including establishing good personal interactions with the Executive Committees of the ACS Divisions of Agricultural & Food Chemistry and Agrochemicals in support of the Spencer Award Events. Eckhard Hellmuth graduated with an MS (’55) and a PhD (’60) from the University of Marburg, Germany, did post-doctoral research in Marburg and at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, and started his career at UMKC in Polymer and Physical Chemistry in 1965.**

**Alternate Councilor**

**Dr. Gary Clapp … Please see above under “Treasurer” …**



**Bio on our Spencer Award Recipient:**

Dr. List was a Lead Scientist at the National center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria IL. He has been involved in research for over 50 years. He is nationally and internationally recognized as an authority on oilseed processing and edible fats and oils. His research has encompassed analytical methods development, deterioration of soybeans in international trade, alternative oil processing, causes of non-hydratable phosphatides in soybean processing, long term storage of vegetable oils, lecithin recovery, use of supercritical fluids in lipid chemistry, interesterification of triglycerides, hydrogenation, removal of trans fats from the food supply. Formulation of trans free margarines and spreads…His research has had major impact on the edible industry. Analytical methods he developed are used in quality control labs worldwide. His research brought first generation trail modified soybean oils to commercialization. Three major oil processors brought zero trans fats to the marketplace based on his research on interesterification and modified hydrogenation technologies.

**Abstract for Spencer Award Presentation: (For the full abstract refer to our website:** [**www.acs-kc.com**](http://www.acs-kc.com)**)**

**The properties of edible fats and oils can be pictured as a quality triangle with functionality, oxidative stability, and health/nutrition as the three legs. Historically, catalytic hydrogenation addressed functionality and stability. However, nutrition labeling of trans fatty acids has had a profound effect on the food industry. Trans fats have been implicated in several diseases and afflictions including coronary heart disease (CHD), some cancers, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and liver and kidney disease. CHD is the leading cause of death worldwide and, in the U.S., about 800,000 heart attacks occur annually with about half resulting in sudden death. Although controversial, dietary fats are thought to be risk factors for CHD. The Nutrition Education Labeling Act (NELA) of 1990 became final law in 2003 and it mandated removal of trans fats from the food supply.**

**Upcoming Events:**

**ACS Midwest Regional Meeting 2025**

**October 12-14, 2025, Columbia MO**

**Host Section:** University of Missouri Local Section

Visit: mwrm2025.org for more information.

**National Chemistry Week!**

**Program-in-a-Box: “THE HIDDEN LIFE OF Spices” October 22, 25; 7:00pm ET (pre-show at 6:45pm); Register for free!** [www.acs.org/acs-webinars/program-in-a-box.html](http://www.acs.org/acs-webinars/program-in-a-box.html)

**November Membership Meeting:** Amy Christiansen, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, School of Science and Engineering, UMKC will be our guest speaker on Tues. Nov. 11. Talk: “From Farm to City: A Primer on Multi-Scale Atmospheric Chemistry Relevant to Midwestern Air Quality”

**Call for Nominations!!** Please consider running for the Executive Committee of the ACS-KC Section this year! You can contact any of the Executive Officers listed on the back page to express your interest in one of the positions, or to ask any questions. Voting will take place on or before November 15, 2025. Our new Chair will be Dr. Gary Clapp. Terms begin Jan. 1, 26. Biographies of those running will appear in the next KCC with voting instructions. Step up and make a difference in our local section!

**ZOOM Webinar of Gary List’s Spencer Award Presentation: Check next month’s KCC for date & time!**

**30% Membership Discount!** Claim your ACS membership discount (for joining or renewing) between September 5- November 15, ’25 by entering code: **LSGROW2025.** Visit <https://www.acs.org/membership.html> to join or renew today!

**ACS-KC 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@gmail.com****) if you are interested in one of the committees. Thank you! We would appreciate it, and we welcome your input and assistance!**

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Check us out on Facebook: ACS-KC and LinkedIn: ACS-KC

 **COMMITTEES and CHAIRS**

AWARDS……………………………………………………………………Alcinda Ruuskanen, MWSU

EDUCATION………………………………………………………………Dr. Jeffrey Woodford, MWSU

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT………………………......Dr. Shuo Han, UMKC

FINANCE……………………………………………………………………Dr. Jeffrey Woodford, MWSU

LONG RANGE PLANNING…………………………………………..**OPEN**

MEMBERSHIP…………………………………………………………...Mr. Alex Marin, Honeywell

MINORITY AFFAIRS…………………………………………………...**OPEN**

NCW & GREEN CHEMISTRY COORDINATOR……………….**OPEN**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR………………………………………………..Mary Jean Clapp, EDUStaff/emPowerU

NOMINATIONS Local Section Executive Committee….**OPEN**

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS……………………………………….Dr. David Van Horn, UMKC

PROGRAM………………………………………………………………..Dr. William Gutheil, UMKC

PUBLIC (Government) AFFAIRS…………………………………Dr. Gary List, University of IL, Urbana-Champaign

PUBLIC RELATIONS……………………………………………………Dr. Gary Clapp, Retired, MWSU

SAFETY………………………………………………………………………Michele Sanders, Harcros Chemicals

SENIOR CHEMIST………………………………………………………Mr. Mark Northrup, Retired

SPENCER AWARD NOMINATIONS……………………………..Dr. Tom Hemling, TCH Animal Health, LLP

WEBMASTER…………………………………………………………….Dr. Gary Clapp, Retired, MWSU

WOMEN CHEMISTS…………………………………………………..Michele Sanders, Harcros Chemicals

**ACS-KC Section 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Chair: Dr. Bill Gutheil (UMKC) (816) 235-2424**

**Visit our website!!** American Chemical Society

Kansas City Section

View online**:**

**www.acs-kc.com**

**Chair-Elect: Dr. Gary Clapp (Retired, MWSU) (816) 341-3230**

**Treasurer: Dr. Jeff Woodford (MWSU) (816) 271-4100**

**Secretary: Mr. Alex Marin (Honeywell) (919) 215-6425**

**Councilor: Dr. Sarah Leibowitz (TriRX Pharm. Serv.) sleibowitzacs@gmail.com**

**Alt. Councilor: Michele Sanders (Harcros Chemicals) (913) 621-7883**

**Newsletter Editor: Mary Jean Clapp (SJSD)** **Clappmj@aol.com**

**Website Director: Gary Clapp (Retired, MWSU)** **geclapp424@****gmail.com**

**Immediate Past Chair: Mr. James Partridge (Honeywell) (913) 669-2441**

OCTOBER 2025

American Chemical Society

Kansas City Chemist

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