

COSMEGRAM

November 2025 • Vol 55 | Issue 8



MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 2025

Principles of Green Chemistry Applied: Novel Liquid Polymeric Emollients Compared to Conventional Materials

Speaker: Aaron Peterson - Director of Sales West Coast, P2 Science Inc.

The increasing demand for sustainable and eco-friendly materials in the personal care and cosmetic industries has driven the need for innovative emollient formulations. This presentation examines how the 12 principles of green chemistry are applied in creating a new polymeric emollient designed to improve safety, efficiency, and sustainability in manufacturing. By integrating green chemistry principles, such as the use of renewable feedstocks, energy-efficient reactions, and waste reduction, we demonstrate how these principles can guide the development of liquid polymeric emollients that meet both performance and environmental standards. Through case studies and experimental data, we highlight strategies to minimize the environmental impact of polymer synthesis, enhance reaction pathways, and ensure the biocompatibility and biodegradability of the final product. This work emphasizes the connection between chemistry and sustainability, providing a roadmap for the future of eco-friendly polymeric materials in consumer products.



Aaron's career path is untraditional in the sense that he didn't know what he wanted to do when he grew up. However, due to his great connections and opportunities, he has had a wonderful career in the personal care and wellness industry for the past 23 years.

He got his start as a lab technician at TwinLab. There he learned how to test supplements in the QC laboratory, including Vitamin C titrations, basic botany, and ran thousands of quality checks using a UV-VIS and an occasional TLC. Two years later, Aaron pivoted to cosmetic chemistry at Nu Skin. As an avid baker growing up, he was familiar with following recipes and getting a little creative with making alterations on the fly. Aaron progressed quickly, seeking opportunities to expand his skill set. He eventually moved to Idaho, where he spent three years working for two different companies on the bench: Northwest Cosmetic Labs (now Elevation Labs) and Melaleuca. After getting married and starting a family, Aaron had the opportunity to come full circle and return to work for Nu Skin as a Senior Scientist.

Three years later, Aaron pivoted into the "dark side" of the industry and joined the world of technical sales for Ross Organic (now part of Azelis). Now, Aaron has surpassed his time in the lab, with 13 years of experience in raw material sales (including 8 years at Barnet Products) and his most recent role to date, Director of Sales for P2 Science.

Aaron joined the SCC in 2005 and was immediately assigned to work on securing sponsors for the IMWSCC newsletter and assist with organizing the golf outing. Three years later, he was invited to serve as chair-elect, a 4-year commitment that would transition him to chair (2 years each). Most recently, he has been on the national board serving as an Area III Director. Aaron helped hone his non-traditional background by taking a series of UCLA extension courses and attending SCC Scientific seminars and courses as often as the occasion permitted.

[Register Now](#)



Nov 18, 2025
5:00 - 8:00 PM



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333 Universal Hollywood Dr
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MESSAGE FROM *The Chair*

Dear All,

What a year it's been! I can't believe we're already at the finish line. From serving this chapter over the years as Social Media Chair, to Chair-Elect, and finally as Chair, I am truly proud and honored to have served. This year, we have reached incredible milestones.

We continue to strengthen our cosmetic chemistry partnership with UCR and proudly presented our first scholarship to a deserving student. Additionally, we are expanding scholarship opportunities to support cosmetic chemistry education and empower the next generation of chemists.

Our NextGen initiatives have grown tremendously, with partnerships across multiple universities that spread industry awareness and positively impact the lives of many.

At our CASCC Suppliers' Day in October, we achieved record attendance and hosted our first Future Chemists Workshop, an inspiring achievement for our chapter.

Behind the scenes, we welcomed new talent to our Board, enhanced the diversity of company representation, and achieved stronger gender balance. These efforts ensure that our chapter continues to reflect the diverse talent and viewpoints of our industry.

What I love most about our chapter is that while we work very hard, we also have a lot of fun. It's always amazing to see everyone come together at our Dinner Dance, Golf Event, Summer Event, and Suppliers' Day After-Party. I often hear from new members that they immediately feel welcomed by our community, and that sense of belonging is something I am deeply proud of.

In my first article, I referenced LeBron James and being just a kid from Bolingbrook, IL, and it's only fitting to close with another sports legend—this time, the late and great Kobe Bryant.

As Kobe said during his retirement speech, "Mamba out".

So...Brittney out!

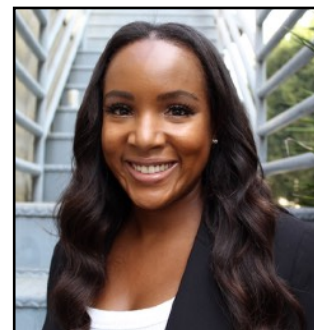
Well, not really! I'll be transitioning into an Advisor role, supporting your 2026 Chair, Matt Driver, and the Board of Directors.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Stay connected with me on [LinkedIn](#).

Yours truly,

Brittney C. Strickland



2025 CASCC EXECUTIVE

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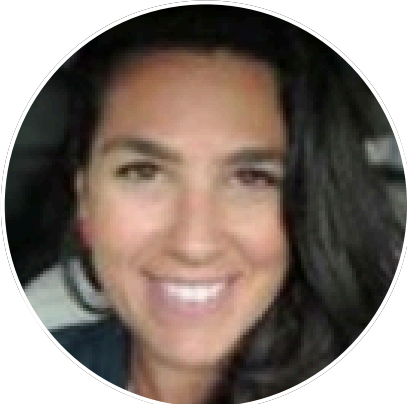
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21

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FEB
18

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MAR
18

AVENUE OF THE ARTS
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APR
29

THE BOX SF
San Francisco, CA

MAY
17

DINNER DANCE - MARDI GRAS
Anaheim Marriott

JUL
26

SUMMER EVENT - YACHT CRUISE
Newport Beach, CA

SEP
16

WARNER CENTER MARRIOTT
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SEP
24

CASCC x SCIFTS GOLF TOURNAMENT
Anaheim Hills Golf Club

OCT
29-30

CASCC SUPPLIERS' DAY + AFTER-PARTY
Long Beach Convention Center

NOV
18

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CASCC Scholarship Opportunities

Are you ready to take your beauty-industry career to the next level? The California Society of Cosmetic Chemists (CASCC) offers several scholarship and grant opportunities to help students and professionals deepen their expertise, attend key industry events, and accelerate their professional growth. Whether you're eyeing attendance at the National Convention, upskilling through educational programs, or joining our signature Suppliers' Day and Future Chemist Workshop, we've got you covered. Check out the full list of awards and apply today! Your next big step in cosmetic science could be just one submission away!

[Check It Out Here!](#)



Did you know?

Speaker presentations are uploaded for CASCC members on our website!

Here's how you can access them:

visit caliscc.org

1. Click on Meetings at the top of the website
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3. On the left-hand side, click Previous Events
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5. The presentation will be listed under Documents (Member login required)

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Cosmetic Product Development

Speaker: Krissie Gerrard
Owner of Envy Cosmetic Consulting

 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

 5:00-8:00 PM

 westdrift Manhattan Beach

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REGULATORY UPDATES

USA

FDA

- Warning Letters – Issued to a company making toothpaste indicating that several products are considered new unapproved drugs and are misbranded. There was also note of not properly established cGMPs.

Lawsuits

- Class Action lawsuit against ULTA for “Clean Beauty Labels” alleging that many products with these labels contain ingredients on the Ulta’s “made without list.”

California

- The Governor blocked two bills. One that would further limit PFAs in packaging and the other that would limit plastic microbeads and glitter in non-rinse off products.
- The Governor signed (Bill CA SB236) the Combating Unsafe Relaxers Act (C.U.R.L) into law on Oct. 11. It bans the sale of relaxer contain formaldehyde, some parabens, and some phthalates. It also requires manufacturers to register their hair relaxer producers by July 1, 2020.
- On Oct. 7, (Bill CA AB60) the Governor signed the Musk Reduction Act. It bans musk ambrette, musk tibetene, musk moskene, and musk xylene in cosmetics. It also limits musk ketone; 1.4% in fine fragrances and oral products, 0.56% in eau du toilette, and 0.042% in all other cosmetic products. Compliance date is Jan. 1, 2027. Technically unavoidable trace amounts are still allowed.
- Prop 65:
 1. OEHHA asking for data on p, p'-bisphenols for reproductive toxicity. Due date Dec. 1, 2025
 2. OEHHA held “Business Compliance Webinars” to educate businesses on compliance with prop 65. These webinar recordings are now posted on the website.
- SCP:
 1. modified proposal to add PPD derivatives on candidate chemical list. 15 day comment period for updates started on Oct. 22, 2025.
 2. Is holding a Green Ribbon Science Panel Meeting on Nov. 6 and 7. This is to discuss issues with implementing the Safer Consumer Products Regulations. Stakeholders can join the meetings and make comments.

REGULATORY UPDATES

International

Canada

- Health Canada's Consumer Product Safety Program is changing its general enquiry services to a web-based form.



Ariana Farina



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TRANSDERMAL DELIVERY

Skin Hacks

Humans have been trying to get drugs through the skin for thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians applied herbal poultices to wounds, hoping the magic of plants would seep in. Spoiler: it worked... sort of. These early attempts were messy, smelly, and definitely not FDA-approved.

As cosmetic chemists, our mission is to make products that are beneficial and effective. The skin's protective barrier has always been a challenge for us to breach.

This barrier function was first discovered in the mid-1900s. At the same time, it was also apparent that skin can also be a gateway. In the 1970s the first transdermal patch hit the market. It was a drug for motion sickness. This was a game changer.

The 80s and 90s were the golden age of patches. That's where Nicotine patches helped millions quit smoking and Hormone therapies helped women with Menopause symptoms.

In our industry, we also struggle to make products that can penetrate deep into the skin and provide results. Scientists found that by using ingredients that alter the skin's structure temporarily can increase the solubility of an active. The most commonly used ingredients are Alcohols, Fatty acids, which disrupt the lipid bi-layer, Terpenes, surfactants, Urea and Glycols.

Terpenes are components of essential oils, which is why they are used widely in Holistic medicine. That is why these molecules are important in the formulation of CBD products, especially topical preparations.

Another method for enhancing dermal penetration is the reduction of particle size, such as the use of Liposomes and Nano particles. Liposomes are not as popular currently due to the lack of long-term stability and problems in processing of products. Nano particles are more widely used, however, the FDA is concerned with how deeply they penetrate and if the actives or drugs cross into the blood stream.

The newest technology today is the use of Exosomes. They are nano-sized vesicles that can come in many forms and are secreted by most cell types. These are released into the extracellular matrix and originally were thought of as cellular waste. They are now recognized as critical mediators of intercellular communications, and carry proteins, lipids and nucleic acids. Fun facts about these amazing ingredients are that they were discovered in the mid-1960s. The name, Exosome was coined after discovery in sheep reticulocytes. In the 2000s, their role in immune signaling and disease process became evident. Currently, we are seeing an explosion of growth in the research of Exosomes and their many important functions.

TRANSDERMAL DELIVERY

Skin Hacks

The key is that Exosomes are biocompatible, and are able to cross the blood barrier. In our industry, we started using these amazing ingredients to target specific therapies. World wide they are currently being studied in cancer therapies, neurological disorders and regenerative medicine, which to me is most exciting!!

Can't wait to see what the future holds for skin therapy.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!!



Erica Herrel

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Elevating Education

at California Suppliers' Day 2025

For this year's California Suppliers' Day, I had the privilege of leading the educational content for the entire event. Building on my involvement from 2023, Margarita entrusted me with full responsibility for shaping the program.

One significant improvement this year was the ability to begin planning in February, a notable change from joining the team in July in 2023. This proactive approach enabled more comprehensive preparation and strategic organization, which ultimately resulted in a smoother and more impactful educational experience for all involved.

Within just three weeks of launching our first application portal, we received over 35 submissions for 10 speaking spots. The committee carefully reviewed each proposal to ensure the selected presentations would focus on key industry trends and feature leading experts. The selected presenters were committed to educating attendees on the latest advancements in the field, rather than merely promoting their own technologies, and this was only Day 1 content!

To extend the educational value beyond emerging trends, we introduced California's first-ever dedicated regulatory day in partnership with the Independent Beauty Association. This initiative brought industry regulators—who rarely have direct interactions with those they regulate—into the event, providing attendees with the opportunity to obtain direct feedback and ask critical questions.

For the first time, the California Chapter—partnering with the cosmetic science program at UC Riverside—launched a West Coast edition of the Future Chemist Workshop, expanding on the program that has long been a highlight of New York Suppliers' Day. By working closely with the NYSCC team, we drew on their expertise and best practices to accelerate our rollout and deliver a truly robust educational experience. Sixty aspiring cosmetic chemists took part in hands-on sessions focused on formulating a super serum, guided by industry experts Ava Perkins and Nick Dindio. Looking ahead, we plan to further develop this initiative, with the potential to add a second workshop day in 2027 to support mid- and late-career professionals, as well as those seeking to transition into formulation roles from other areas within the industry.

Both keynote presentations on Day 1 and Day 2 drew the largest audiences Suppliers' Day has seen in years. Day 1 featured Dr. Michelle Wong, who delivered an insightful talk on strategies for refuting misinformation in cosmetic chemistry. On Day 2, Jen Novakovich moderated a dynamic panel discussion with Lyle Burgoon and Meredith Petillo, exploring the broader impact of this misinformation on cosmetic industry policymaking.

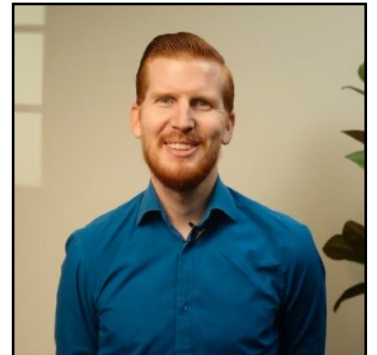
Elevating Education

at California Suppliers' Day 2025

In summary, the educational sessions across both days received exceptionally positive feedback from participants, with many presentations filled to capacity and standing room only. Attendees consistently highlighted the relevance and depth of the content, the expertise of the speakers, and the spirit of collaboration that permeated the event. Numerous participants remarked that this year's program established a new benchmark for industry education and professional growth and I'm already working on fresh ideas for 2027!

Ryan Kudla Ph.D.

Account Manager, West Coast
2025 CASCC Education Chair



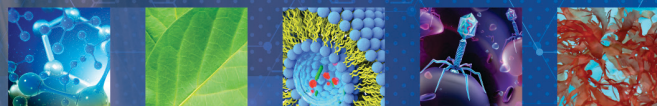


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NEXTGEN

UCSB CAREER FAIR

Our NextGen Chair, Nasrat Hamid, recently partnered with UCSB SCC to host an exciting Careers in Cosmetic Science Fair. Students had the opportunity to connect directly with professionals across the Cosmetics and Personal Care industry, including R&D, manufacturing, regulatory, sales, raw materials, contract manufacturing, and fragrance. The event also featured a career panel where speakers shared insights into their backgrounds and career paths while answering student questions.

Watch the Video Recap >



A special thank you to Nasrat for leading this initiative and to all volunteers who helped inspire the next generation of cosmetic scientists.



The NextGen initiative was launched in 2015 by the Society of Cosmetic Chemists to address the needs of early careerists, young professionals and undergraduate/post-graduate students in the cosmetics and personal care industry. The initiative consists of special education, networking and other events specifically designed to assist the “next generation” of formulators, innovators, and ground-breakers in the industry.



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NEXT GEN >



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Understanding Hair Breakage Through Cyclic Combing: Advances in Testing and Analysis

By Thomas Davies, PhD

Introduction

Hair breakage remains one of the most pressing concerns in cosmetic science. For consumers, visible fragments in a brush, split ends, or thinning ponytails are clear signals of hair damage. For product developers, the challenge lies in demonstrating how treatments — whether conditioning agents, polymers, oils, or repair technologies — can strengthen hair and improve grooming resilience.

Traditional tensile testing of single fibers has long been the laboratory standard for assessing hair strength. However, this method does not fully replicate the repeated stresses hair endures in daily life, such as brushing, combing, and detangling. As the cosmetic industry increasingly emphasizes *claim substantiation* and *consumer relevance*, alternative testing approaches have become vital.

One such method, **cyclic combing**, simulates everyday grooming under controlled conditions and allows scientists to directly measure the breakage process. Combined with modern imaging and statistical modeling, cyclic combing provides valuable insight into how products influence the resilience of hair over time.



Figure 1: Bossa Nova Vision - Sirtaki combing system & imaging results

Cyclic Combing as a Laboratory Model

Cyclic combing experiments involve passing combs repeatedly through hair tresses under standardized conditions (**Figure 1: Sirtaki Instrument for Repeated Combing with results acquired by the system with automatic hair detection**) – shows hair tresses, comb path, and fragment collection area. A typical study might involve thousands of cycles, with the number and length of broken fragments collected at regular intervals.

The process captures the results of several real-world stress factors simultaneously:

- **Friction** between hair and comb,
- **Bending stresses** as hair flexes around teeth,
- **Snagging events** where fibers catch and release, and
- **Cumulative fatigue** from repeated strokes.

Unlike single-fiber tensile testing, cyclic combing reproduces the multi-fiber interactions that occur during actual grooming – designed to mimic closely the end user experience. The fragments produced can be quantified with precision, allowing for objective comparisons across treatments.

Recent advances in **automated imaging systems** have further enhanced the method. Instruments such as the **SIRTAKI Cyclic Combing System (Bossa Nova Vision, Los Angeles, CA)** enable parallel testing of multiple tresses, automatic fragment detection, and length measurement. This combination of automation and imaging not only increases throughput but also reduces operator variability, leading to more reproducible results.

Key Findings from our Recent Research Paper (Davies & Wortmann, 2025 - Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ics.70016>)

Studies applying cyclic combing to untreated and chemically processed hair have yielded several important insights:

1. **Bleached hair breaks more readily** — Chemically oxidized fibers produce significantly more fragments than untreated hair, confirming the well-known fragility caused by bleaching (**Figure 2: Fragment accumulation graph** – compares untreated vs. bleached hair over combing cycles.).
2. **Conditioning agents mitigate breakage** — By reducing fiber–fiber and fiber–comb friction, conditioners lower fragment release, improving combing ease.
3. **Fragment numbers follow predictable kinetics** — Breakage data fit well to a mathematical model (Voigt–Kelvin), allowing prediction of both early and late-stage fragment release.
4. **Early breakage predicts long-term resilience** — The number of fragments produced in the first few cycles strongly correlates with the eventual total. This means short-term tests can serve as reliable proxies for long-term outcomes.
5. **Friction dominates for straight hair** — A parameter termed the Failure Cycle Index (FCI) remained constant across treatments, suggesting that, for straight European hair, combing breakage is controlled mainly by friction rather than tensile fatigue.

These findings provide not only a clearer scientific framework for hair breakage but also a practical tool for evaluating treatments in the laboratory.

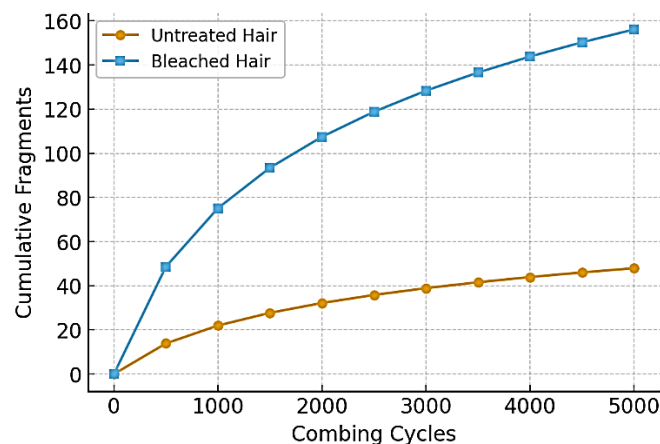


Figure 2: Hair Fragment accumulation during cyclic combing

Applications Across the Cosmetic Industry

The ability to quantify breakage through cyclic combing has value throughout the cosmetic product development pipeline:

- **Active ingredient suppliers** can use the method to demonstrate the efficacy of polymers, proteins, lipids, and other conditioning agents in reducing breakage. By correlating fragment counts with treatment chemistry, suppliers can generate data that supports both B2B communication and downstream marketing claims.
- **Formulators and end-product manufacturers** gain a tool to evaluate prototype formulations under realistic grooming conditions. Whether developing shampoos, conditioners, masks, or serums, cyclic combing provides sensitive metrics to differentiate product performance.
- **Consumer goods companies** benefit from claim substantiation. Demonstrating “reduced breakage” or “stronger hair” through quantitative testing builds scientific credibility and strengthens consumer messaging.
- **Academic researchers** may apply the method to fundamental questions about hair science — for example, the role of fiber curvature, texture, or crosslinking in breakage mechanics.

Because the test is both repeatable and scalable, it serves as a common platform linking upstream material science with downstream consumer outcomes.

Broader Industry Relevance

The rise of cyclic combing reflects a broader industry trend: the need for **consumer-relevant, quantifiable, and statistically robust methods** to support product claims. As regulatory scrutiny around cosmetic advertising increases, companies require tools that not only demonstrate efficacy but also withstand external review.

Moreover, the method aligns with the movement toward **inclusive testing across diverse hair types**. While most published studies to date have focused on straight European hair, ongoing work is extending the approach to curly and coily hair. In textured hair, snagging and tensile stresses play a larger role than friction alone, leading to more complex breakage behavior. Understanding these mechanisms is critical for designing products that meet the needs of global consumers.

Refining the Language of “Strength” from Combing Studies

In hair science, the word *strength* is used in many contexts: tensile strength, fatigue strength, grooming strength. This ambiguity can create confusion when translating laboratory findings into consumer claims.

Cyclic combing contributes to clarifying this terminology. It **does not** measure tensile breaking force in isolation, but rather **grooming resilience** — the ability of hair to withstand repeated combing without generating fragments. This distinction is important, as consumers experience hair breakage not as isolated tensile failures but as cumulative losses during grooming.

Conclusion

Cyclic combing, especially when combined with imaging and modeling, provides cosmetic scientists with a powerful lens through which to study hair breakage. The method bridges laboratory analysis with consumer experience, offering sensitive and predictive metrics for evaluating treatments.

For ingredient suppliers, it highlights the value of lubricating and strengthening agents. For product manufacturers, it provides a reproducible framework for formulation testing and claim substantiation. For the scientific community, it refines our understanding of hair mechanics and challenges us to adopt clearer definitions of resilience and strength.

As industry continues to seek robust, consumer-relevant testing methods, cyclic combing continues to play an increasingly central role in both research and product development.

About the Author:

Thomas Davies, Ph.D. is the Business Development and Applications Manager for Bossa Nova Vision and Dia-Stron, where he connects scientific discovery with real-world applications in the mechanical and visual characterization of hair and fibres. Holding a Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience in hair science, Thomas has built his career around advancing measurement technologies and translating scientific data into actionable insights for global consumer goods manufacturers. His work bridges laboratory research and industry application, supporting innovation, product evaluation, and claims substantiation. Thomas is based in the Los Angeles and may be reached at thomas.davies@diastron.com or [\(2\) Thomas Davies | LinkedIn](#)



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OR EMAIL DR. KERRY HANSON [KERRYH@UCR.EDU](mailto:kerryh@ucr.edu)

Meet Some of Our Instructors

Valerie George: extension.ucr.edu/features/valeriegeorge
Dr. Ryan Kudla: www.youtube.com/watch?v=79xU3fRnBNY
Esther Olu: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXF10zf2GV0&t=4s

Meet Our Students

Tamara E.: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph6qP4rOH2g
Class of 2024: <https://youtu.be/VCyfiDGF3kU>

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Year 2025, Badge Title: Norman Fox Exhibitor + CASCC Suppliers' Day After Party Chair

Tiny steps in what was one of the biggest undertakings in my professional career. Sure, I was mortified but what drove me to accept was the sense of community. I knew that I was not alone in this journey. There was a team that I could rely on: Margarita Gomez-Nadin, Ryan Kudla, Angie Inouye and all of the CASCC Board.

Behind all the glitz and glamour or in this case all the boots and lassos, was true labor and countless hours of volunteering, all with one goal: bring people together.

As a Marketing Manager, you are always having to be on top of trends and predict what will be the next big thing. As I started searching for themes for the After Party, I looked at what trends were happening not just in the personal care industry but also in other industries such as fashion and entertainment as all of these intertwine to some extent. We were right on target, as stores like Anthropologie and Zara, shows like My Life with the Walter Boys and American Primeval on Netflix and Western-inspired fashion like denim, suede and leather emerged as huge fall 2025 trends.

It was a night filled with laughter, entertainment but most importantly camaraderie. As exhibitors, suppliers, contract manufacturers, chemists and all of the in between, we are always on the go and events like the after party are a great way to decompress and bring people together as a community. And of course, all of this is possible thanks to everyone behind the scenes including our sponsors. Your sponsorship contributions help us create events that inspire innovation, foster connection, and strengthen our community of cosmetic scientists and industry professionals. We look forward to your continued participation in future chapter events including the next CASCC Suppliers' Day in October 2027!

In retrospect, being part of the CASCC Suppliers' Day Committee, helping design all the graphics for the show and your After Party Chair has taught me that there is so much potential I have yet to explore. But probably the key takeaway has been the sense of fulfillment in volunteering for an organization with a vision for the future of cosmetic chemistry.

As the lights dim on this rodeo, the best is yet to come, so stay tune for 2027 and the many new surprises we have in store!

Velvet Arriola, CASCC Suppliers' Day After Party Chair
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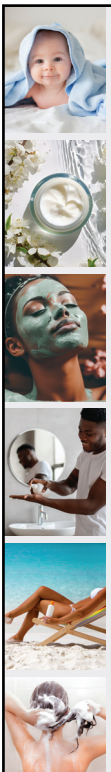
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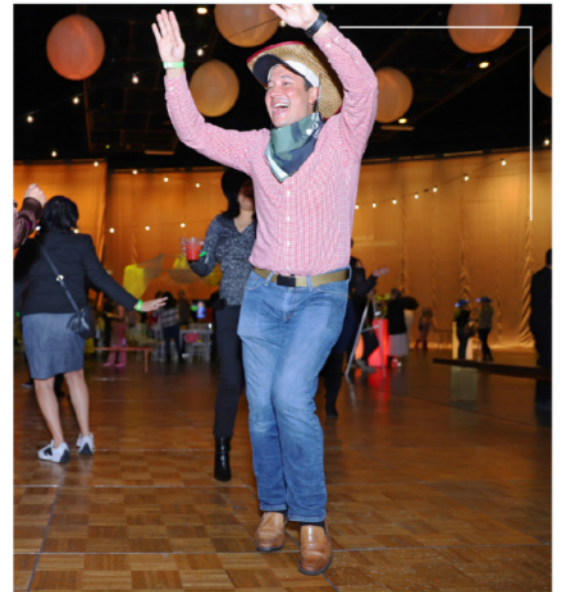
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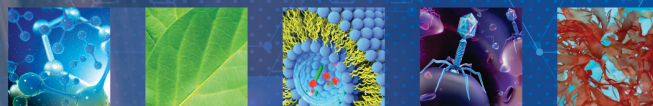


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