

# KALCHEMIST NEWS

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<http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>

*September-October 2003*



## Message from the Chair Benjamin Maxey

The local section has been very busy in these waning days of summer.

Dr. John Fortman will be presenting his lecture “**America's Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers**” on **Tuesday, September 23**, in 226 Dow Science Building at Kalamazoo College. There will be a reception before hand.

The annual “**Chemistry at the Museum**” is coming on **Saturday, November 8**, at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. We need lots of volunteers to help during this great event. Please contact Benjamin Maxey ([benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com), 833.3623) to volunteer.

Finally, with the losses as a result of the Pfizer acquisition and the upcoming annual elections, we need you to get more involved in the local section. There are openings in a number of positions including **Kalchemist News Editor, National Chemistry Week Coordinator, Secretary, Chair-elect, Alternate-Councilor, and Public Relations Coordinator.**

If we cannot fill these open positions this informative newsletter and/or many of the beneficial activities of the section will have to be cut. Please contact Benjamin Maxey ([benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com), 833-3623), or any Executive Committee member, if you are interested in helping keep the local section alive.

Thanks, Benjamin

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For mailing address changes, please contact Benjamin Maxey ([benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com), 833-9326)

**The American Chemical Society Kalamazoo Local Section is pleased to  
announce their fall Tour Speaker**

**Dr. John Fortman**



Presenting

**America's Funniest Chemical Video's:  
Dazzling Demo's and Videotaped  
Bloopers!**

**When: Tuesday, September 23, at 5:00pm**  
(Reception preceding the lecture from 4:30 to 5:00pm)

**Where: 226 Dow Science Center**  
**On the campus of Kalamazoo College**

“I have collected and edited many misadventures that Rubin Battino and I experienced in doing demonstration shows that were videotaped live. Difficulties encountered in the studio preparation of our three hour set of videotaped demonstrations were also saved. These will make up one part of these showings. Gil Haight has given me permission to show portions of his Haightful Perils of Teaching, which are spectacular in spite of technical problems. A videotape of Hubert Alyea doing his Old Nassau demonstration will be shown along with some tapes of others caught in live demonstrations that presented problems.” Dr. John Fortman

**Contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, [benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com))  
with any questions.**

# Calling All Volunteers!

## **Chemistry Day at the Museum**

Once again the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS is sponsoring "Chemistry Day the Museum" in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, and we need volunteers to help make this wonderful event successful!

When: Saturday, November 8, Noon to 4pm.

Where: Kalamazoo Valley Museum (downtown)

The theme this year is "Earth's Atmosphere & Beyond!"

If you haven't come to this event before, we have a variety of hands on experiments for kids of all ages to try. We need you to help the kids with the interactive experiments. It is a great way to spend an afternoon!

As always, we are looking for new experiments to show the kids; of particular interest are experiments involving the atmosphere. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Also, we need a few energetic souls to coordinate the experiments.

If you are interested in volunteering, coordinating an experiment, or recommending a new experiment, please contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, [benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com))

## **Executive Committee Openings**

Election time is rapidly approaching and we are in need of new blood on the KACS Executive Committee. With the losses as a result of the Pfizer acquisition in addition to the normal election cycle, we have a number of openings, including the following positions:

Kalchemist News Editor

National Chemistry Week Coordinator

Secretary

Chair-elect

Alternate-Councilor

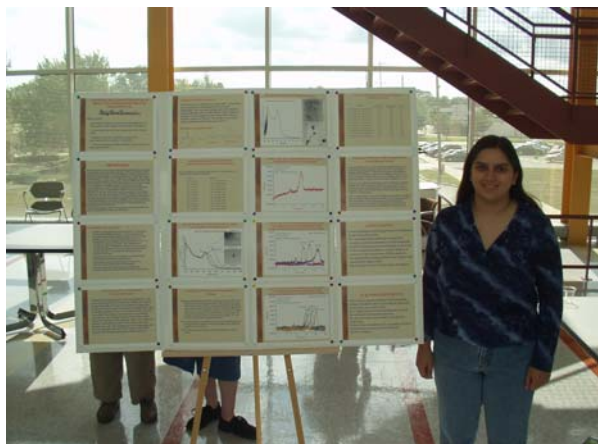
Public Relations Coordinator

If you have enjoyed the events or services of the local section, please consider joining us hard working souls on the executive committee.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, [benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)) or Patrick Irish (833.6818, [patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com](mailto:patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com)).

## High School Students Spend their Summer Working in the Laboratory Instead of a Local Fast Food Restaurant

Last summer three area high school students spent their summer in the WMU Chemistry Department participating in the ACS's Project SEED (Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged) Program. Project SEED is part of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) commitment to the development of a scientific work force that is more broadly representative of the American population. The program was established in 1968 by the ACS to help expand the career outlook of high school students from families defined as economically disadvantaged by federal poverty guidelines. Students are paid a stipend for working in a chemistry related laboratory. The local program has been sponsored by the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS on a grant from the National Society for the last twelve years. During this time about fifty high school students have been placed in academic and industrial laboratories in Kalamazoo and the surrounding area.



Agelica Hernandez



Timasha Wood talking with Dr. David Reinhold

To qualify the students must have completed their sophomore year in good academic standing, have taken at least one course in chemistry and be recommended by their chemistry teacher or other school official. Students are selected based on their qualifications and letters of recommendation. This past summer the program kicked off in early June, and went through the first week in August. We had two new students join the program: DeShawna Stevenson, from Kalamazoo Central High School and Angelica Hernandez from Loy Norrix High School. DeShawna worked in Dr. Reinhold's lab on the effect of carnosic acid on nickel toxicity, while Angelica worked in Dr. Muralidharan's lab synthesizing and characterizing mixed thiol monolayers on gold nanoparticles.

The third student, Timasha Woods, was a returning student from Kalamazoo Central High School, who rejoined Dr. Huffman's group (students are allowed to spend two years in the program). Timasha has been studying the metal-binding domain of Wilson Disease protein and is presenting her work at this fall's National ACS Meeting. Both Timasha and Angelica have chosen to attend Kalamazoo College this fall.



DeShawna Stevenson

Matching funds for the grant have come from a number of local donors over the years, including most recently, A.M. Todd Company, Kalsec Inc. and Pfizer Inc. Companies or individuals interested in donating to or who want more information about the local Project SEED Program should contact:

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The Project SEED Reception, August 7  
(Left to Right: DeShawna Stevenson, David Achila, Jennifer Bunce (seated), Dr. David Huffman, Timasha Woods, Dr. Lydia Hines, Dr. Don Schreiber, Dr. Subra Muralidharan)



# 2003 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

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- September 23 “America’s Funniest Chemical Video’s: Dazzling Demo’s and Videotaped Bloopers!” presented by Dr. John Fortman. 4:30pm reception, 5:00pm lecture. 226 Dow Science Center, Kalamazoo College. (Benjamin Maxey, 833-3623, [benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com))
- October 2 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 4:30pm
- November 6 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 4:30pm
- November 8 Chemistry Day at the Museum, Noon to 4pm, Kalamazoo Valley Museum (Benjamin Maxey, 833-3623, [benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com))
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**KACS Website Address:** <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>