

# KALCHEMIST NEWS

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

*July - August 2004*



## Message from the Chair Patrick A. Irish

Greetings from the Chair;

I hope you enjoyed watching some fast colorful exothermic reactions over the Independence Day weekend (fireworks). Please be careful and liberally apply zinc oxide or p-amino benzoic acid in an emulsion (sunscreen), while enjoying fun summer activities.

We are currently scheduling the Fall Tour Speaker. Dr. Alexander Shedrinsky from Long Island University will give a talk entitled, "Amber, Real and Fake." It will be at 5:00 pm on Friday, September 24, at a to be determined location on the Western Michigan University Campus. It is free and open to the public.

Volunteers are being solicited for the 5th grade elementary outreach effort, "Science is Fun." This project will put chemistry demonstrations in the local public schools during the week of 18-22 October. If interested in helping out, please contact Monica Whitmire ([Monica.L.Whitmire@pfizer.com](mailto:Monica.L.Whitmire@pfizer.com)), Rebecca Johnson ([Rebecca.L.Johnson@pfizer.com](mailto:Rebecca.L.Johnson@pfizer.com)), or Niki Waldron ([Niki.A.Waldron@pfizer.com](mailto:Niki.A.Waldron@pfizer.com)).

We are calling for next year's Executive Committee nominations. We will have openings for the positions of Chair Elect, Alternate Councilor, and Treasurer. If you are interested in serving on the EC or wish to nominate someone, please contact a current EC member as soon as possible.

Now is also time to start thinking about Chemistry Day at the museum. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact an EC member or Julie Lorenz at [Julie.K.Lorenz@pfizer.com](mailto:Julie.K.Lorenz@pfizer.com).

Patrick

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For mailing address changes, please contact Karin Kwok  
([karina.kwok@pfizer.com](mailto:karina.kwok@pfizer.com), 833-4729)

## Thirty-first Annual Kalamazoo Section Awards Banquet

On Monday, May 24, the ACS Kalamazoo Section hosted its thirty-first annual awards banquet. Awards were presented in a number of categories, including Competitive Exam Scholarship winners, Outstanding High School Chemistry Students, Outstanding College Students, Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher, Outstanding Local Section Members, and ACS 50 year members.

Congratulations to all of the award winners!

Also, special thanks to the sponsors who help make the annual awards possible: *Pharmacia Corp., the L. Perrigo Company, the A.M. Todd Company, KALSEC, Inc. and Private Donations*

### Competitive Exam Scholarship winners

Srikanth Aravamuthan - Kalamazoo Central & KAMSC, First Place (\$1,000)

Shauna Paradine – Schoolcraft & KAMSC, Second Place (\$800)

Robert Wiersema - Wayland, Third Place (\$600)

Anne Hoekstra – Loy Norrix & KAMSC, Fourth Place (\$450) (tie)

Govind Rangrass – Kalamazoo Central & KAMSC, Fourth Place (\$450) (tie)

Rishi Mediratta - Kalamazoo Central & KAMSC, Sixth Place (\$200),

Brian Magnuson - Mattawan, Seventh Place (\$200),

Kevin Melotti - Kalamazoo Central & KAMSC, Eighth Place (\$200) (tie)

Thomas Baweja – Wayland, Eighth Place (\$200) (tie)

Neil Gajare - Portage Central & KAMSC, Tenth Place (\$200) (tie)

### Honorable Mention (\$100)

Mary Decker – Portage Central

Andrew Franks – Kalamazoo Central & KAMSC

Mark Griffin – Mattawan

Thomas Griffith – Mattawan

Matt Gumbleton – Loy Norrix & KAMSC

Kyle Hibbard – Plainwell

Rachel Hitow – Gull Lake

Brandon Jennings – Gull Lake

Kyle Lewis – Gobles

Phillip Timko – Vicksburg & KAMSC

Christopher Whitfield – Mattawan



*Front Row:* Matt Gumbleton; Anne Hoekstra; Rachel Hitow; Thomas Baweja; Govind Rangrass; Thomas Griffith; Srikanth Aravamuthan; Mary Beth Decker. *Middle Row:* Phillip Timko; Brandon Jennings; Neil Gajare; Mark Griffin; Kyle Lewis; Brian Magnuson. *Back Row:* Andrew Franks; Robert J. Wiersema; Kevin Melotti; Christopher Whitfield; Kyle Hibbard.

### Outstanding High School Chemistry Students

Amanda Hodge – Allegan  
Alex Sauer – Bloomingdale  
Lauren Lynch – First Assembly  
Travis Ransom – Galesburg-Augusta  
Kyle Lewis – Gobles  
Megan Vrobel – Gull Lake  
Brad Mulder – Hamilton  
Jessica Rewa – Hopkins  
Anne Hoekstra – KAMSC

Kathy Hoozeboom – Kalamazoo Christian  
Kristy Garvey – Kalamazoo Hackett  
Dustin Lee – Lawton  
Eric Jordan Nielsen – Mattawan  
Johnathon Rushing – Paw Paw  
Jason Thomas – Plainwell  
Mary Beth Decker – Portage Central  
Robert J. Wiersema – Wayland



*Front Row:* Anne Hoekstra; Mary Beth Decker; Kristy Garvey; Travis Ransom; Kathy Hoozeboom; Jason Thomas; Lauren Lynch. *Back Row:* Eric Jordan Nielsen; Robert J. Wiersema; Kyle Lewis; Dustin Lee; Johnathon Rushing.

### Outstanding College Students



Paul Schramm, K-College  
Eric Phillips, WMU

### Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher



Karen Gabrielse, Wayland High School

### Outstanding Local Section Members

Dave Reinhold  
Susan Stapleton

### ACS 50 year member

Jackson B. Hester, Jr.

**Fall Tour Speaker: Dr. Alexander M. Shedrinsky**  
**Presenting "Amber, Real and Fake"**  
**Friday, September 24, at 5:00pm on the WMU campus**

Amber has long fascinated collectors and researchers. There is the aura of mystery associated with belief in its healing power; the variety of beautiful colors that make it so desirable for jewelry; and finally, the exquisite preservation of a great variety of inclusions, from insects to small frogs and lizards. Unfortunately, from earliest times these properties have also drawn the attention of forgers. By forgeries we mean the substitution for real Baltic amber (succinite) or other fossilized resins, of materials ranging from recent copals to synthetic polymers. Attempts to forge amber inclusions are known from antiquity. At that time, such natural materials as melted amber or copal were used.

One can prepare convincing imitations of large transparent amber pieces with a wide variety of "inclusions" (ants, bees, lizards, mosquitoes, etc.). The question of the authenticity of amber inclusions has become particularly significant in view of the recent publication by a team of scientists from the American Museum of Natural History of DNA gene fragments from an insect preserved in amber for almost 30 million years. This represents the oldest DNA ever recovered from fossils. The book and the movie Jurassic Park created enormous interest in the subject of amber. In our lecture we will try to sort out the real and imaginary aspects related to this subject. The lecture will be profusely illustrated by slides of samples from the collection of the American Museum of Natural History as well as from private collections.

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**Volunteers Needed for "Science is Fun" Activities at Local Area Schools**

Pfizer, Inc. and the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS are sponsoring a "**Science is Fun**" program for fifth graders in the Kalamazoo and Portage area elementary schools that have low *2003 Science MEAP* scores. These half-day programs will be presented during National Chemistry Day Week (October 18-22) and is designed to get kids interested in science through various hands-on activities. Past experiments have included 1) *polymer science* (silly-putty / slime), 2) soil / water testing, 3) pH of household solvents and cleaning agents, 4) starch testing (*low carb craze*), 5) *separation science* (candy and ink using filter paper), and 6) *density science*.

Volunteers are needed to make this program a success. Please contact Rebecca Johnson (833-8653) or Monica Whitmire, (833-3619) to volunteer your time or for additional information.

## **Project SEED Reception at WMU**

The Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society will hold its annual Project SEED Reception on Thursday, the 5th of August from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM at Western Michigan University in the Atrium on the third floor of Haenicke Hall (maps of campus can be found at the following website, <http://maps.pp.wmich.edu/KaMai/index.html>). The current SEED Students will present posters on the work they have been doing this summer.

Project SEED is a Summer Educational Experience for (economically) Disadvantaged High School chemistry students developed by the ACS. This program is aimed at creating a pool of highly motivated students from diverse backgrounds to lead our nation in chemical education, business and research. The students are paid to work side-by-side with an experienced chemical professional in a laboratory setting for eight weeks.

This program is sponsored by funds from National ACS, the local section, and donations from local companies including Pfizer Inc., Kalsec Inc., and A.M. Todd Company as well as donations from individual members.

In addition to the posters, certificates will be presented to the participants and refreshments will be served. To obtain more information about the Project SEED Program or to donate to the program please contact, Donald Schreiber at 387-2856 or by email at [donald.schreiber@wmich.edu](mailto:donald.schreiber@wmich.edu).

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## **Call for Nominations for 2005**

The KACS Executive Committee is requesting nominations for the following positions for terms starting in 2005:

Chair Elect

Treasurer

Alternate Councilor

KACS  
c/o S. Karina Kwok  
Pfizer  
Mail Stop 0200-89-1  
7000 Portage Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001-0199

Please contact Karina Kwok at [karina.kwok@pfizer.com](mailto:karina.kwok@pfizer.com) if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.



## 2004 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

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|--------------|---|
| August 5     | SEED Student Reception<br>Western Michigan University   |
| August 5     | KACS Executive Committee Meeting, following the SEED reception  |
| September 2  | KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Pfizer B126 CR, 5:00pm  |
| September 24 | Fall Tour Speaker Dr. Alexander Shedrinsky<br>Topic: "Amber, Real and Fake"<br>(Patrick Irish, <a href="mailto:patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com">patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com</a> , 269-833-6818) |
| November 6   | Chemistry Day at the Museum, Kalamazoo Valley Museum,<br>Noon to 4pm, (Julie Lorenz, <a href="mailto:julie.k.lorenz@pfizer.com">julie.k.lorenz@pfizer.com</a> )                           |

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**KACS Website Address:**

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