

KALCHEMIST NEWS

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Message from the Chair Kent S. Alleman

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message from the Chairman. Pfizer's recent announcements about their operations in Kalamazoo county mean that many of our members will be facing job loss over the next six months or so.

The American Chemical Society offers many different career services through their web site. These services are often free and include help with resume preparation, Chemjobs Career Center, salary comparators, and other tools. I encourage anyone who is interested to investigate the link below. You may also contact our career coordinator, Sue Stapleton at stapleton@wmich.edu.
<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/career.html?DOC=careers/index.html>

My thoughts are with everyone who is affected by this announcement and will be facing tough decisions in the coming months.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Dr. Schwarcz will be unable to speak to the local section in September. However, we have a replacement speaker, Dr. Helen M. Free. Dr. Free is a former ACS president (1993) and current works for Bayer in Elkhart, IN. She will be speaking on "The Many Faces of Careers in Chemistry" Wednesday, 21 September, 6:00 pm at Kalamazoo Valley Community College Texas township campus in room 1510 (The Gallery).

Kent

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KACS WEBSITE:

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

A Message from the Chair-Elect

Michael Kiella

As we find ourselves winding into the last days of summer, we can't help but hold tightly to the warm days, the blue skies, and long daylight hours; we don't want it to change. We like our summer *just the way it is*. But change it will, and summer will soon segue into autumn. Change is upon us. Change is everywhere.

Your executive committee is also at a point of change. This issue of the *Kalchemist* contains a call for nominations to leadership positions within our Section. Member participation is the lifeblood of our Section, and we need your help! I'm asking you, whether in industry or academia, in Kalamazoo, Portage or surrounding areas, to consider this opportunity. Would you today, please ask of yourself first and a colleague second, to step forward and participate at a new level in your Society. I fondly recall Jed Fisher, past Section Chair, saying to me, "...I'm waiting for it to be your turn; I know that you will... *yes you can*." I repeat Jed's words to you, today, "*yes you can*."

The executive committee commitment is for two years. The Section will provide the appropriate training and contacts within the National organization by sending you to the Annual Local Section Leadership Conference. You will meet National program chairs and staff. More importantly, you will meet and network with other members just like yourself, who were recently elected to their Section leadership team. Guidance and mentorship will be provided.

In addition, the Section has a continued need for volunteers to support our many community activities. In the next several months, there are volunteer opportunities with the Chemistry Day at the Museum and the 5th Grade Science Fairs through the new ACS Innovative Grant Program.

The Kalamazoo Section of your Society has a strong tradition, a slate of activities and programs, and a history of participation. Ascendancy to Section leadership is your next step. Give me a call (833.9863) or drop me a line (michael.i.kiella@pfizer.com). Please come forward...you will be glad you did!

Call for Nominations for 2006

The KACS Executive Committee is requesting nominations for the following positions for terms starting in 2006:

Chair Elect
Councilor
Secretary

Please contact Michael Kiella (833-9863) or Kent Alleman (833-5396) with your nominations.



Chemistry Day at the Museum

Call for Volunteers

Saturday, October 15, 2005
Noon to 4 pm

This event is sponsored by our local ACS section and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and generally reaches more than 1000 members of our community.

The theme this year “The Joy of Toys” is a great opportunity for chemists (and non chemists!) to let folks know what we do.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or would like more information, contact Sharon Barbour at sharon.barbour@mpiresearch.com or 668-3336 Ext.1498, or Patrick Irish at patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com or 833-6818.

Fall ACS Tour Speaker

Dr. Helen M. Free

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas township campus, Room 1510 (The Gallery)

Our Fall Tour Speaker will be former ACS President Helen M. Free speaking on “The Many Faces of Careers in Chemistry.”

Many people have a wrong picture of "a chemist" at work. Elementary students draw an entirely different picture of a "chemist" before and after they have spent a short time at a career session or in a science museum or just talking to a scientist. And even those who are considering a career in chemistry often don't realize the awesome potential for a variety of careers based on a scientific degree. A series of examples of "what chemists do" will illustrate some of the fascinating choices available and give some insight into the life of one industrial chemist.

Dr. Free holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the College of Wooster, a master's degree in management in the health care field from Central Michigan University, and honorary doctorates of science from both schools. She joined Miles Laboratories (now Bayer Healthcare) in 1944, and her career includes wide experience in laboratory work, management, growth and development, manufacturing, and marketing related to her main interests in the field of clinical chemistry and medical devices, and in management in the health care area. She holds several patents and has published over 200 papers. She has also held many elected positions in scientific societies, including president of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in 1990 and president of the American Chemical Society in 1993. Among her national awards are: the ACS Garvan medal, the Hall of Excellence of the Ohio Foundation of Small Colleges, and the Kilby Foundation Award. She and her husband were married for 53 years when he died in 2000 (9 children). Together they were honored by Medical Economics Press and the Laboratory Public Service National Leadership Award. They were inducted into the Science and Engineering Hall of Fame and the National Inventors Hall of Fame for their work on the development of urinalysis reagent strips and self tests for blood glucose used worldwide by persons with diabetes.

Update from the Social Coordinator
Jennifer Larese (833-0637, Nildran@gmail.com)

As the Social Coordinator for the Kalamazoo Section, I am hoping to plan events to bring together current members and also encourage new members to get involved. If you have any suggestions, please email me: Nildran@gmail.com. I have set up a Yahoo group: ACS_social@yahoo.com. The group is open to anyone interested in knowing about the social activities or has suggestions – feel free to join and submit your ideas! I hope to use the group to announce upcoming activities, in addition to the newsletter.

Past Event: July 1, 2005: Art Hop in downtown Kalamazoo

We had a good time at the Art Hop! We walked around to the various locations and even had time for dinner afterwards.

Next Events:

August 23, 2005@6pm: Disc Golf at Robert Morris Park (off H Avenue)

If you have not tried disc golfing or want to get out and play before the end of the summer, let's meet at Robert Morris Park at 6 pm.

Local Section ACS Innovative Project Grant:

The Kalamazoo ACS Local Section has been awarded an Innovative Project Grant for \$3000 for use with 5th Grade Science Fairs. We will be partnering with Pfizer and K/RESA for this project. Pfizer has matched the \$3000 grant through the Pfizer Education Initiative project. K/RESA will be providing their support by soliciting the 5th grade Teachers (and their Principals), and will host the roll-out workshop. The roll-out workshop will be held on 01 November 2005 at K/RESA starting at 4 PM. K/RESA will be forwarding a flyer describing the program to the tri-county area (Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren) 5th grade teachers in August.

In order to make this program a success, we will be needing a lot of support from our KASC members!

We are hoping to help 50 classrooms hold successful science fairs in the Spring of 2006. This means that we will need volunteers to visit the classrooms and assist the teachers throughout the school year. We would like to use this opportunity to promote chemistry awareness in the local school system.

If you are interested in participating in this educational program, please contact Monica Whitmire (833-3619 or the PEI email address: alakazoo_alakasam@pfizer.com).

Kind Regards,
Monica Lee Whitmire

SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS
229TH ACS NATIONAL MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA, MARCH 17, 2005
Submitted by Kalamazoo Section Councilors Lydia Hines and Dean Cooke

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

- By written ballot the Council selected Catherine T. Hunt and John W. Kozarich as candidates for 2006 President-Elect. They join George E. Heinze, who was certified as a petition candidate for 2006 President-Elect.

2006 Member Dues

- The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2006 at the fully escalated rate of \$127.

Committee Review

- As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Project SEED. The Committee on Project SEED oversees the Society's summer educational experience program for disadvantaged youth.

Proposal for a Committee on Ethics

- The Committee on Committees presented to Council a proposal for establishing a Committee on Ethics as an Other Committee of the Council. The charge of this committee would be as follows: To coordinate the ethics-related activities of the Society, serve as an educational resource and clearinghouse, but not as an adjudication body, for ACS members seeking guidance on ethics issues; raise awareness of ethics issues through meeting programming and columns/editorials; review recognition opportunities for acknowledging ethical behavior; and to develop and oversee such other ethics-related activities as will serve ACS members and promote the Society's standards of ethical conduct within the profession of chemistry and its related disciplines. After defeating a motion to assign the proposed duties of the committee to the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, the Council VOTED to establish a Committee on Ethics as an Other Committee of the Council.

Petition for Consideration

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections withdrew a petition on election procedures. The committee plans to offer additional changes to the Society's election procedures and introduce a new petition at the fall national meeting.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President William F. Carroll presented an overview of Chemistry Enterprise 2015, posing the question, "Where will our students come from in the next ten years, and where will they go?" Councilors then participated in a lively discussion of this issue. The issue was framed as follows: Currently the U.S. has a strong university system and U.S. graduate education in science is widely recognized as the best in the world, but problems loom on the horizon. In addition, a variety of factors in the nation's academic infrastructure are likely to produce change in the training and careers of new chemists. The discussion at Council intensified awareness of this issue and possibilities for solutions.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Special Temporary Assessment

- In December 2002, the Board of Directors enacted a special temporary assessment to cover the costs of increased funding for divisions and local sections, as stipulated in the Petition for Division and Local

Section Funding, which was subsequently approved by the ACS Council, Board, and membership in March 2003. The Board accepted the temporary assessment with the understanding that it would be reviewed each year to determine whether it could be reduced. The Board reviewed the temporary assessment for 2006 and, in light of the Society's strong financial performance, VOTED to reduce it to \$5, rather than proceeding with the scheduled \$6 assessment.

The Society's Current Finances and Financial Future

- The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that the Society ended 2004 with a net contribution from operations of \$5,099,000 on revenues of \$419,200,000 and expenses of \$414,700,000. This was \$3,628,000 favorable to the approved budget. After including the results of the Belmont Conference Center, recorded as a discontinued operation, and the Member Insurance Program, the Society's overall net contribution for 2004 was \$4,465,000, which was \$3,229,000 favorable to the approved budget.

The Board's Committees and Task Forces

- The ACS/AIChE governance-to-governance task force and the ACS/AIChE Joint Membership task force have concluded formal discussions and have agreed on several points. At this meeting, the Board VOTED to discharge both task forces with thanks.

The Society's Staff

- The Board received a report from the Executive Director/CEO and several of her direct reports on the status of the Society's website project, special issues associated with Chemical Abstracts Service and the Publications Divisions, the Green Chemistry Institute, and the activities of the General Counsel. The Board also reviewed and approved several recommendations from the Committee on Executive Compensation relative to compensation for the Society's executive staff. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

ACS Governance Review

- The Board of Directors VOTED to support the creation of a Joint Board-Council Policy Committee Task Force on Governance Review with the charge to conduct a review of the Society's governance structure and Constitution and Bylaws to ensure that the Society has a governing framework to enable it to best fulfill its mission, meet member needs, and remain a world-class organization.

ACS President Carroll

- William Carroll alerted the Council to the announcement of "Chemistry Teacher Connections", a new online program that provides high school teachers with priority access to high school tools on the ACS website and web based versions of the High School materials found each month in J. Chem. Ed.

ACS President-Elect Nalley

- Ann Nalley outlined the three major thrusts of her presidential year. One: To spotlight the thousands of volunteers who have helped build the Society. Two: To communicate to the general public the value of basic and applied research and the relationship between the two. Three: To emphasize the role that undergraduate research plays in developing future scientists.

ACS Past-President Casey

- Charles Casey reported on a symposium he attended on "Are Chemical Journals Too Expensive and Inaccessible". The symposium addressed the problem of the very high and rapidly increasing prices of commercial science journals that are threatening the ability of libraries to maintain their access to the scientific literature. One group asks for immediate free access to articles on the internet. Casey argues for reasonably priced electronic journals from scientific societies like ACS.



2005 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

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- August 4 **KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Open to all Members, Pfizer B126 CR, 5:00pm (Kent Alleman, 833-5396)**
- August 8 **Project SEED Reception, WMU Haenicke Hall Atrium, 5:00pm (Don Schreiber, 387-2856)**
- August 23 **Disc Golf Outing, Robert Morris Park (off H Avenue), 6:00pm (Jennifer Larese, 833-0637)**
- September 1 **KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Open to all Members, Pfizer B126 CR, 5:00pm (Kent Alleman, 833-5396)**
- September 21 **Fall Tour Speaker: Dr. Hellen M. Free, "The Many Faces of Careers in Chemistry", KVCC, Texas township, Room 1510, (Kent Alleman, 833-5396)**
- October 15 **Chemistry Day at the Museum, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Noon to 4:00pm (Sharon Barbour, 668.3336 ext.1498)**
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Please contact Benjamin Maxey at benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.

KACS Website Address: <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>