

# American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

August 29, 2011

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## Comments from the Chair

Doug Williams

We emerge from our “lazy” summer days with some good news about our leadership team. First, we welcome WMU Professor of Chemistry Elke Schoffers to the Executive Committee as our Chair-Elect for 2011. This appointment fills the final vacancy on our Committee just in time as we move into the fall election season for 2012. Secondly, we welcome Kevin Douglass as our representative of the WMU Chemistry Graduate Students Association. Thank you to Elke and Kevin for their interest and commitment to our Section.

Are you interested in getting involved in some way? Perhaps you have a mentor who inspired a love of chemistry that you want to share with others. Maybe you're thinking that it would be good to meet chemists outside of your workplace and expand your local professional network. You might just be reading this and telling yourself, “I could really help these guys.” And, I would agree with you.

This fall, we are seeking nominations for 2012 Chair-elect (leading to Chair in 2013) and Secretary (two-year appointment). If you'd prefer a seasonal or shorter-term commitment, we have that too. Please check our web site [page](#) for specific volunteer openings and let us know what interests you. If you haven't checked our [web site](#) lately, please, browse around a little while you're there for other section news and links.

Our Fall 2011 program starts with a flavorful tour speaker event, continues with our annual celebration of National Chemistry Week and culminates in the 2011 Midwest/Great Lakes Joint Regional ACS Meeting in St. Louis. Please, read on below for more details. Lastly, (I can't say much about this yet) we are aiming to host a large member event in November that involves research presentations and an open bar. Look for more news about this in our next newsletter.

### KACS website:

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

Do you have questions, comments, or would like to contribute to this newsletter? Send an email to:

[ACSkzoo@gmail.com](mailto:ACSkzoo@gmail.com)



## 2011 KACS Executive Officers

### Chairperson

Dr. Doug Williams, Kalsec, Inc.  
[DWilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:DWilliams@kalsec.com)

### Past-Chairperson

Dr. Susan Stapleton, WMU – Chemistry  
[susan.stapleton@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.stapleton@wmich.edu)

### Chairperson-Elect

Dr. Elke Schoffers, WMU – Chemistry  
[elke.schoffers@wmich.edu](mailto:elke.schoffers@wmich.edu)

### Secretary

Carl Stachew  
[cstachew@yahoo.com](mailto:cstachew@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Dr. John Miller, WMU – Chemistry  
[john.b.miller@wmich.edu](mailto:john.b.miller@wmich.edu)

### Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines, WMU – Chemistry  
[lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)

### Alternate Councilor

Mr. Michael Kiella  
[mike.kiella@charter.net](mailto:mike.kiella@charter.net)

## Upcoming events at a glance (Sep - Oct 2011)

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- **Sep 28** – *The Chemistry of Chocolate*, Prof. Joe Vinson (Univ. of Scranton) and local chocolatier Dale Anderson ([Confections with Convictions](#)), 7:00-8:30 p.m., Kalamazoo Valley Community College (Texas Township), Student Commons Theater

- **Oct 15** – *Chemistry Day*, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

- **Oct 19-22** – Midwest/Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting, St. Louis, MO

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Do you have an event that you would like to have listed in this newsletter? Send an email to:

[ACSkzoo@gmail.com](mailto:ACSkzoo@gmail.com)

## Announcements

### The Chemistry of Chocolate – Fall Speaker Meeting

Doug Williams

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter theme for the ACS celebration of IYC 2011 is **Materials**. We might be stretching the intention a little on this one but, personally, I can't think of a much more important material than food or, in particular, a more universally pleasing food than chocolate. Get ready to join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 at KVCC (Texas Township campus) for a scientific and **organoleptic** assessment of chocolate! Professor Joe Vinson (Univ. of Scranton) will talk about his research on the chemistry of chocolate and local chocolatier Dale Anderson (Confections with Convictions) will provide samples of his popular truffles for tasting. **Advance registration is required for this event.**

Send name(s) to [dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com) or call Doug Williams at 349-9711 (x3298) by Wednesday, September 14 to reserve your place. ACS members and students are free. Guests are \$2 each (collected at the door). See our [website](#) for additional details and a printable poster. (Note: I apologize for scheduling this on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Because of Professor Vinson's tour schedule with neighboring Sections, his appearance cannot be rescheduled. If you are unable to attend because of this, please let me know. – Doug Williams)

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### ACS Science Coaches

ACS has launched a new program to encourage members to share their expertise and enthusiasm for science through regular contact with middle or high school teachers and students. You choose the teacher and work with them to develop a plan and **ACS will provide up to \$500 for materials**. ACS expects to support 75 coaches in the 2011-2012 school year. See the ACS Science Coaches [web site](#) for details and, please, send a note to Lydia Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) if you decide to sign up.

# Announcements

## Midwest Great Lakes Joint Regional Meeting

Lydia Hines

This year's Great Lakes Regional Meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO, October 19-22, 2011. Abstract submissions are accepted until Wednesday August 31, and the deadline of early registration at a reduced cost is September 30. More information can be found at [www.mwrm2011.org](http://www.mwrm2011.org).

The Wabash Valley Local Section in our (Great Lakes) Region is acting as co-host with the St. Louis Local Section (Midwest Region) to conduct this Joint Regional Meeting. Because Regional Meetings are not often emphasized, some of our younger members may not be familiar with their history and importance. I have written a [short informational article](#) which I hope will encourage you to consider participating in, and even offer to help organize, a Regional Meeting at some point (how does 2017 sound?) in Kalamazoo.

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## Career Tools for Unemployed Members

The American Chemical Society offers special discounts and career assistance to its **unemployed members**; for information on all the available programs and tools visit [www.acs.org/unemployed](http://www.acs.org/unemployed)

For free career-assistance tools for all ACS members visit [www.acs.org/careers](http://www.acs.org/careers)

In addition, ACS members and non-members from around the world can take advantage of some great networking opportunities through the [ACS Virtual Career Fair](#), at no charge. The virtual career fair is part of the 2011 National ACS Fall Meeting, Denver, CO, Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

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## Purifying Water with Banana Peels

Besides being used for polishing silverware, leather shoes and house plants, banana peels can also purify drinking water that may have been contaminated with heavy metals. Indeed, a Brazilian research group showed that minced banana peel could quickly remove lead and copper from river water contaminated by mining operations, farm runoffs and industrial wastes.

Their paper appeared in ACS's journal [Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research](#).

# National Chemistry Week

## Appeal for Volunteers

Lydia Hines

Since 1988, when we hosted two, our Kalamazoo Section has been hosting a Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM) in conjunction with our **National Chemistry Week (NCW)** celebration. This year that week of excitement is coming soon - October 16-23 – and our annual outreach to our community at the KVM will be happening on **Saturday, October 15, from noon to 4 p.m. The theme is “Chemistry – Our Health, Our Future”**, so we will have an opportunity to share with those who come through the Museum doors (800-1000 visitors ages 4-104) much about how chemistry and chemicals contribute to a healthy lifestyle, how chemists have a hand in designing diagnostic methods and equipment, how our lifestyle from the food we eat, our medications, to our very breathing are results of chemistry and chemists at work.

This is our appeal to you to **volunteer** to set up and share an activity on that day with the goal of explaining in simple terms how chemistry is central to that activity. **Ideas** for appropriate activities may be found at [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) (search for “**kids and chemistry**”). Examples of what has been done in previous years are Chromatography, pH/color changes, Liquid Nitrogen use, UV beads bracelets, effects of Emulsifying Agents, etc. Children love the fun at the KVM, learn the fun of chemistry, and they and their parents (and teachers) get reading/activity materials to take home and to school.

As a Local Section, we also conduct an **Illustrated Poem Contest for students K-12** in our Section (Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren Counties) about a month before NCW. It will be greatly appreciated if you can pass along the e-mail address of a Middle school or Elementary school teacher so that they can be included in our mailing list for that contest.

Please mark your calendars for October 15 and **volunteer** for our 2011 Chemistry Day at the KVM. Indicate your availability by **sending** your name and e-address **soon** to our NCW coordinator, Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) ! Please send your name even if you have participated in the past.

Thank you.

# Announcements

## 2011 High School Teacher Award – David Williams

Lydia Hines

If you still have your August 1, 2011, C&EN available (or if you get the online version) check out page 49 to see the picture of our 2011 High School Teacher (Lawton) Awardee, **David Williams**, along with his own High School Teacher and mentor, **Doreen Odziana**, a previous KACS High School Teacher (Paw Paw) Awardee. You can also read the complimentary comments made about him by Sherine Obare, one of our Section's evaluators of the teacher nominees, and incorrectly attributed to me (Lydia).



Photo by Andre Venter

2011 KACS High School Teacher honoree David Williams with his mentor and former high school chemistry teacher, Doreen Odziana.

## CGSA Barbecue Event

In what we hope to be a repeating event, the WMU Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA), kindly hosted a barbecue for local ACS members and guests at Oshtemo Township Park on Friday, June 17. About 20 students and 20 nonstudents attended on a beautiful summer day. A [summary](#) with photos is on our web site.

## Sudoku Challenge – May Winners

We did not receive any entries to the May Sudoku challenge. This was a tough one.

Below is the solved puzzle.

Up to the task for another (and easier) Sudoku challenge? Go to page 6 of this newsletter for your chance to win a prize...

Difficulty: HARD

5	1	6	3	7	8	9	4	2
8	9	2	5	4	6	7	1	3
3	7	4	1	9	2	5	6	8
9	4	7	2	3	1	6	8	5
2	6	3	8	5	7	4	9	1
1	8	5	4	6	9	3	2	7
7	3	8	9	2	4	1	5	6
6	2	9	7	1	5	8	3	4
4	5	1	6	8	3	2	7	9

Solution: Newsletter, 2011, 1(4)

# Sudoku challenge

## Solve the puzzle, win a prize!

Here's how to win a prize:

- 1) Solve this Sudoku puzzle on your own.  
(please, **do not use** an online Sudoku solver)
- 2) Email the solved puzzle to [ACSkzoo@gmail.com](mailto:ACSkzoo@gmail.com)
- 3) Submission deadline is September 15, 2011.
- 4) Prizes will be awarded to the first 3 correct entries (entries must be from Kalamazoo Local Section ACS members who have not won a prize in the most recent newsletter).
- 5) Winners and solution will be announced in the next newsletter.

## Have fun!

<u>First Name:</u>	<u>Last Name:</u>
<u>Email address:</u>	

Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

			6					
4	6				7	8	3	2
		2				9		5
	1			5	8			4
3			9	4			1	
2		9				1		
8	5	3	1				9	7
					9			

**New to Sudoku?** Click on the [link](#) to learn the few basic rules of the game.