

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

October 26, 2011

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Comments from the Chair

Doug Williams

At various times this year, I have reflected on the return of our Local Section newsletter and our intention to make it a “bimonthly” publication. First, I thank David for his steady hand in preparing these for us, for making them fun and interesting, and for managing their distribution to you. Some of you have sent your encouragement and appreciation, for which we are grateful. Secondly, I smile when I think about the challenge of wrestling this publication into a bimonthly schedule. This is our seventh issue this year and our second one in October. Let’s call this a bimonthly approximation. More importantly, we hope that these have been timely and informative for you. October is traditionally a busy month for our Section. Chemistry Day, as always, engages a lot of volunteers and public participants. Read on for a summary of this year’s event. Two key activities that I want everyone to consider: (1) Elections – by Oct 31, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W9QHRZY> to vote for our nominees for Councilor and Secretary and (2) SciMix poster session – join us at Bell’s Eccentric Café on Nov 1 for an evening to celebrate chemistry research in our section (see below for details).

2011 KACS Executive Officers

Chairperson

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Past-Chairperson

Dr. Susan Stapleton, WMU – Chemistry
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Secretary

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Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines, WMU – Chemistry
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Alternate Councilor

Mr. Michael Kiella
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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

Upcoming events at a glance (Oct - Nov 2011)

- **Oct 31** – Deadline to vote online for Local Section officers

- **Nov 1** – KACS SciMix Event: "Sustainable Science, Recycle a Poster", 5-9 pm, Bell's Eccentric Café

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

ACSkzoo@gmail.com

Announcements

SciMix Poster Session:

"Sustainable Science - Recycle a Poster"

Doug Williams

Please join us between 5:00-9:00 pm, Tuesday, Nov 1, at Bell's Eccentric Café (355 East Kalamazoo Ave.) for "Sustainable Science - Recycle a Poster," a celebration of local chemistry. Dr. Bob Gadwood will speak at 6 pm on "Creating Chemistry Jobs in Kalamazoo: The Story of Kalexsyn." Others will present posters of recent work in all areas of chemistry. We will provide appetizers and an open bar for the occasion. This event has been graciously funded with a special grant from Pfizer Animal Health and we are looking forward to a good turn out to help us celebrate the 4th quarter theme of Health in the International Year of Chemistry 2011. If you or a colleague would like to present a poster, please notify John Wendt (john.a.wendt@pfizer.com) to reserve an easel. For more details or a printable announcement of the event, please go to our [web page](#).

Expired or Unwanted Medicine – Free Disposal

Donna Seibert

Do you have unwanted medicines? Don't flush'em, and don't throw'em in the trash can. Instead, protect our natural resources and drop them off at a local police station. Collection sites will be open on **Saturday, October 29 from 10 am – 2 pm** at the Kalamazoo Township Police Department (on Riverview) and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (on Crosstown).

Also, **starting November 1**, red medicine boxes will be available for 24/7 dropoff of unwanted medications at four local police stations:

- Kalamazoo Township Police Department (Riverview)
- Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (Crosstown)
- Portage Police Department (Shaver Rd)
- Kalamazoo Sheriff's Department (Lamont)

2011 Joint Great Lakes-Midwest Regional Meeting

Report

Lydia Hines

What a pleasure to be greeted by “our own” Sheryl Loux on arrival at the Registration Area at the Joint Great Lakes-Midwest Regional Meeting in St. Louis on Thursday evening, October 20, 2011; she remains active in outreach in the St. Louis Section just as she was with our Section. She sends regards.

The Meeting was well attended (1070 attendees, 640 papers/posters) with many student and faculty presenters and a lively exhibit area (53 exhibitors) which included a large number of colleges and universities “recruiting” graduate students. KACS Chair-elect Elke Schoffers and four of her students presented their work, as did Ben McCall, a 1991 KACS High School Award recipient, now an Associate Professor of Chemistry (Astrochemistry) at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. It was wonderful to see him and hear that he now chairs the East Central Illinois Section.

The Awards banquet was a time of good conversation and celebration. The Great Lakes Region Teacher Award, given to **Jeff Christopherson** of Normal Community High School in Normal, IL, and the E. Ann Nalley Great Lakes Region Award for Volunteer Service, given to KACS Executive Committee member **Lydia Hines**, were presented by the District II (our District) director, George Bodner; the Great Lakes Region’s Stanley Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences was awarded to **Chicago State University**, whose primary service area is the South Side of Chicago, and was presented by ACS President Nancy Jackson. Other governance members present for interaction with Meeting participants were Region V director Peter Dorhout, Director-at-Large Marinda Wu, ACS Past-president E. Ann Nalley and 2011 President-Elect Bassam Shakhashiri; Dr. Shakhashiri hosted a lunch and panel discussion on Chemistry and Chemists’ Responsibility to Society which was very well received and generated lively discussion.

This Meeting was another example of a well-planned and executed Regional Meeting which met its objective of giving an intimate setting in which good chemistry could be exchanged by seasoned and aspiring chemists at various levels. The Great Lakes Region was very pleased to be a part of its success.



Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

A Retrospective

Lydia Hines

1. *Publicity* – we had announcements published in the Kalamazoo Gazette (4) and the Three Rivers Commercial-News (1) over the 2 weeks prior to the event.

2. *The Event* - On a windy Fall Saturday afternoon, October 15, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM) was busily keeping 650 patrons warm with lots of chemistry-related educational activities. Twenty-three (23) KACS members, along with 32 students (Grades 11-16) and 11 museum volunteers were assigned to 21 displays throughout the first two floors of the KVM. Judging from the enthusiasm of the patrons as they exited the facility the event continued its past tradition of demonstrating the fun and relevance of chemistry **safely** to those who did the hands-on activities. From our exit survey we note that after having gone through the event respondents “think that chemistry is interesting” and they “will let someone else know what they learned”. This year we also had a more extensive collaboration with representatives of NOBCChE (National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers). Though the number of teachers, home-schooling families and Cub Scout troop leaders and members was smaller than in prior years, our Chemistry Activity publications were happily taken for use at home. Patrons showed surprise and gratitude for these educational materials, all generously provided by ACS free of charge to the recipients.

The assistance of Annette Hoppenworth and other of the Museum staff was, as usual, invaluable.

3. **Three bonus comments**

- our event likely resulted in a new member
- our event piqued the interest of a member employed at MPI
- our outreach as a Section is fondly remembered by at least one retired teacher, Carol McCarthy of Mattawan, who brought her grandchild and really enjoyed the event



2011 Chemistry Day fun at KVM

Photo by Elena C. Hines

Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum



Photo by Elena C. Hines

Penny in a Cup.



Photo by Elena C. Hines

Cleaning pennies with Taco



Photo by Elena C. Hines

Volcano!

Announcements

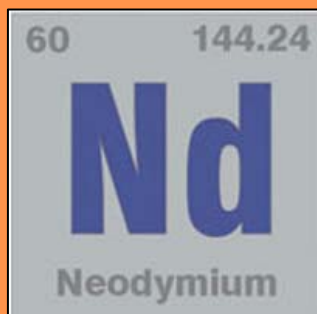
Dr. Brian A. Zeider Memorial

Kevin Douglass and Dr. Sherine Obare

Dr. Brian A. Zeider, born October 19, 1979, passed away on Friday, September 9, 2011. A recent doctoral graduate of Western Michigan University (WMU), he was a dear friend and colleague to students and faculty alike. He served as President of the WMU Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA) from 2009-10.

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, a memorial service for Dr. Zeider was held in the Chemistry Building at WMU. Organized by the Department of Chemistry and CGSA, the memorial was attended by forty students and faculty as well as his parents, siblings and girlfriend. The attendees heard remarks from Dr. Michael Barcelona, Dr. Donald Schreiber, Dr. David Huffman, Ms. Alia Hinz and Ms. Mariana Kondon. The ceremony concluded with the commemoration of the element neodymium (Nd) from the Elemental Chemistry Fund to Dr. Zeider's memory; he was a passionate fan of the Notre Dame football team.

Dr. Zeider received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 2002 and received his doctorate from WMU in 2010. He held a post-doctoral position at the University of Utah before his untimely death.



Sudoku Challenge – October Winner

We received one winning entry to the October Sudoku challenge. Congratulations to Tim Evans.

Tim will receive a \$5 gift certificate to **Something's Brewing**, located at 120 W. South St. in downtown Kalamazoo.

Below is the solved puzzle.

No new puzzle in this newsletter, as the Sudoku Challenge is going on a short sabbatical.

Difficulty: MEDIUM

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

Solution: Newsletter, 2011, 1(6)