

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

February 2, 2012

Vol. 2 - Issue 1



Comments from the Chair

Elke Schoffers

Dear Colleagues,

As the 2012 Chair of the Kalamazoo Local Section for the American Chemical Society I cordially invite you to join this years KACS activities and encourage you to get involved. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with a talented pool of experienced chemists in the area. My first duty as Section Officer is to thank the many volunteers that have made our Section a success over the years. I look forward to work with a diverse group of ACS members and non-members in academia and industry in addition to the many chemistry students in Southwest Michigan. I hope to support a wide-ranging program that appeals to local chemists and the general public.



Elke Schoffers, Ph.D.
KACS Chair

Our first social event will be on Tuesday, February 7 at 4:30 PM (see page 4 for details). Please join us to meet up with old friends, make new friends and catch up with KACS. This will also be your opportunity to provide feedback about upcoming activities and to interact with local student organizations. I encourage you to stay tuned to learn how other events take shape, some of which are coordinated with the themes released by the National ACS Office:

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED, April 22):
"Rethinking Recycling – It's Easy to Be Green"

National Chemistry Week (NCW, October 21-27):
"Nanoscience – As It Relates to the Environment, Energy, Materials and Health"
NCW 2012 also marks **25 Years of National Chemistry Week.**

(Continued on page 2)

2012 KACS Executive Officers

Chairperson

Dr. Elke Schoffers, WMU – Chemistry
elke.schoffers@wmich.edu

Past-Chairperson

Dr. Doug Williams, Kalsec, Inc.
DWilliams@kalsec.com

Chairperson-Elect

Vacant
Consider getting involved

Secretary

Carolyn Pugh, Bridge Organics
carolyn.a.pugh@bridgeorganics.com

Treasurer

Dr. John Miller, WMU – Chemistry
john.b.miller@wmich.edu

Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines, WMU – Chemistry
lemhwgh@gmail.com

Alternate Councilor

Mr. Michael Kiella
mike.kiella@charter.net

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 (Feb 2012)

Feb 7 – Boost your Career Meet and Greet & Cheese and Wine Mixer, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1260 Chemistry Building, Western Michigan University. See page 4 for details

SIP Symposium

Feb 17-18 – Dow 226, K-College

Details can be found at:
<http://reason.kzoo.edu/chem/seminar/>

WMU Seminars

Feb 20 – Andrew Maverick (Louisiana State University), 4 p.m., 1260 Chemistry Building, WMU

Feb 27 – Darrin M. York (Rutgers University), 4 p.m., 1260 Chemistry Building, WMU

Details can be found at:
<http://www.wmich.edu/chemistry/events/index.html>

Feb 29 – Kalamazoo Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group, 5:30 - 8 p.m., location TBA, see page 7 for details

Feel free to contact KACS at Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu if you would like to announce specific events or would like to share a link.

Comments from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

Bassam Shakhashiri, Ph.D., assumed his role as the ACS President for 2012, and selected as his theme “Advancing Chemistry and Communicating Chemistry” in support of the overall mission, “to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people”. Marinda Wu, Ph.D., is the current ACS President-Elect and focuses on improving the business climate for domestic job creation and on helping members with professional development.

Concluding my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Doug Williams, our outgoing chair, for his enthusiasm and leadership to make 2011 a very productive year. Moreover, he has been a tremendous help to prepare me for a new professional role. Last but not least, Lydia Hines deserves a special recognition for her energy and dedication in the KACS Section since 1975. Overall her involvement with ACS spans more than four decades. It is a privilege to be able to work with such an experienced volunteer.

I look forward to meeting everybody in 2012.



Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Ph.D.
ACS President



Marinda Li Wu, Ph.D.
ACS President-Elect

Chem-Able Matching Grant Program

(Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society)

Purpose

The purpose of the Chem-Able matching grant program is to assist chemical professionals and students in obtaining training or experience to improve chances of employment or re-employment.

Scope

Funds provided under this program may be used to partially defray the costs of:

- Training sessions
- Meeting costs (where a presentation is being made or workshop held)
- Travel to training or meeting

Funds may *NOT* be used for:

- Meals or entertainment
- Taxi, unless necessary for airport access

Award amount

Typical awards will be less than \$500, and are limited to no more than 90% of the total allowable costs.

Eligibility

- Chemical professionals residing or working within the Kalamazoo Section.
- Students enrolled at accredited post-secondary institutions within the Kalamazoo Section who are declared chemistry majors or conducting chemical research.

(Members of the grant review committee are **not** eligible for this program.)

Proposals should include

- Brief (<1 page) declaration of how the proposed training or experience would improve the applicant's employability
- A short description of the specific use of any grant funds.
- Documentation of the proposed training or experience, including costs.
- *Curriculum vitae* or résumé
- Contact information of at least two references who can comment on the suitability of the proposed activity for improving employability.

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis with awards made as funds permit. Awarded funds will generally be distributed as reimbursement upon submission of a brief report after the event.

Submit materials to: KACS Chem-Able Grants, c/o Chemistry Dept – MS5413
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Or by email: KACSGrants@gmail.com

Donate to support the *Chem-Able* Matching Grant: KACSGrants@gmail.com

Special Announcement



The KALAMAZOO Section
presents

“B   s t your Career!”

**Lower Your Activation Energy
Increase Your Efficiency
Be A Catalyst**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012
4:30-7:00 pm
1260 Chemistry Building
Western Michigan University**

Mix & Mingle, and Celebrate Kalamazoo Chemistry

4:30 pm – Refreshments

***5:00 pm – Introduction & Highlights of 2011 KACS
Events***

5:15 pm – Panel Discussion about Career Choices

6:00 pm – Wine & Cheese Mixer

This event is open to ACS members, non-members, and the general public. Contact Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu if you have any questions. Follow events of the **Kalamazoo American Chemical Society (KACS) Local Section** at <https://www.wmich.edu/acs>.

Illustrated Poem Contest



Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2012 Illustrated Poem Contest:

“Rethinking Recycling— It’s Easy to Be Green!”

The **Kalamazoo** Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten - 12th grade.

Contest (Receipt) Deadline for Entries: **March 23, 2012**

Mail entries to: Dr. Lydia Hines, 5596 Parkview Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009-9487

Winners of the Kalamazoo Section illustrated poem contest will advance to the ACS National Illustrated Poem Contest!

Write and illustrate a poem using the CCED theme, “**Rethinking Recycling— It’s Easy to Be Green!**” Your poem must be **no more** than 40 words, and in the following styles to be considered:

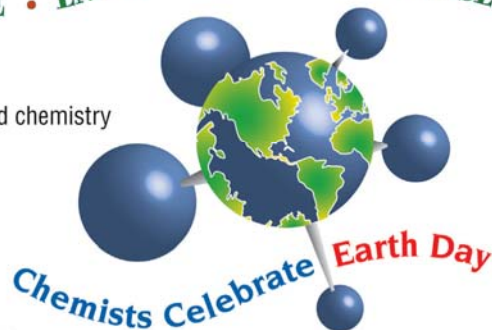
HAIKU • LIMERICK • ODE • ABC POEM • FREE VERSE • END RHYME • BLANK VERSE

Possible topics related to *recycling* and *chemistry* include:

- Recyclable materials (e.g. aluminum, glass, paper, plastic) and the related chemistry
- Green chemistry and sustainability
- Biodegradable materials
- Reduction of greenhouse gases, pollution, and waste
- Any other relevant topics

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Relevance to and incorporation of the theme
- Word choice and imagery
- Colorful artwork
- Adherence to poem style
- Originality and creativity
- Overall presentation



Contest Rules:

- Poems must conform to a particular style. No poem may be longer than 40 words.
- The topic of the poem and the illustration must be related to the CCED 2012 theme, “Rethinking Recycling – It’s Easy to Be Green!”
- All entries must be original works without aid from others.
- Each poem must be submitted and illustrated on an unlined sheet of paper (of any type) not larger than 11” x 14”. The illustration must be created by hand using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint,

colored pencils or markers. The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be printed with a computer, before the hand-drawn illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.

- Only one entry per student will be accepted.
- All entries must include an entry form.
- All illustrated poems and/or digital representations of the poems become the property of the American Chemical Society.
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners’ names, likenesses and entries for editorial, advertising and publicity purposes.

2012 ACS Leadership Institute in Fort Worth, TX

Report

Elke Schoffers (Chair) and Carolyn Pough (Secretary)

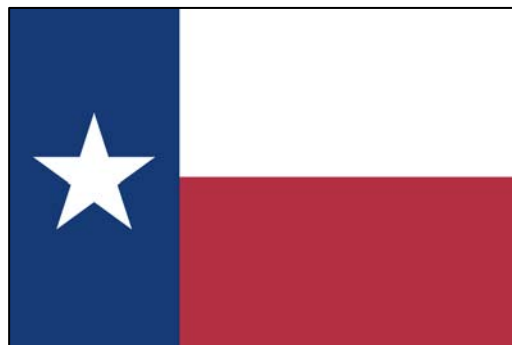
Having assumed our new positions on the Executive Board of the Kalamazoo Local Section, we already had an opportunity this year to learn new skills. We were among almost 400 chemists who descended on Fort Worth, Texas for the 2012 ACS Leadership Institute that invited not only Section Officers but also Student Chapter and Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) representatives.

The development courses that were offered over three days are designed for ACS members and non-members. They highlight best practices from within and outside the organization, and incorporate research from the corporate and public sector. Since 1965 ACS has offered tools and skills in some way, shape or form to support its many grassroots volunteers.

Every participant received an action-packed schedule before the meeting. There were also many occasions to network with a diverse group of participants. Most attendees became part of a pseudo fan club after being encouraged to complete a "Passport" booklet. It contained a page for each of the 13 (out of 15) members of the ACS Board of Trustees who joined us in Fort Worth. Collecting all signatures would allow one to be entered into a drawing to win one of two Amazon Kindles. Sadly, none of them traveled back to Kalamazoo.

The busy program did not leave much time to explore the downtown area even though it was in walking distance. Yet it was difficult to forget that one had entered the Lone Star State. The title of the local paper was the "Star-Telegram, WHERE THE WEST BEGINS". The walls in the hotel were decorated with many stereotypical artwork pieces, large renditions of hats, cowboys, horses, hat-wearing cowboys on horses, longhorns, and glass cases filled with horseshoes and leather whips.

It was good to return to snow-covered Southwest Michigan after an exhausting but productive weekend.



Miscellaneous Announcements

Mass Spectrometry Meeting

Andre Venter

The Kalamazoo Mass Spectrometry Discussion group is currently planning a meeting on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. with presentations sponsored by Waters Corporation. Location is to be announced. For more details about this event, contact Andre Venter at andre.venter@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2420, or go to the MS discussion group website at http://homepages.wmich.edu/~gzt8940/andre_venter/KzooMSG.html

A KACS Success Story

The Tice Family

Around 23-24 years ago, my husband and I began taking our daughter to "Chemistry Day" at the Kalamazoo Public Library [that is where our Chemistry Day was held for several years, before the Museum moved to its new location]. Since all three of us love the sciences, we had a great time. Anna, our daughter, enjoyed all of the experiments that were set up, and I think the activity really enriched her life and ours.

We also began subscribing to WonderScience [a Grade 4-6 publication of the ACS Education Division samples of which were available at the activity] around that time. I was a "stay-at-home-mom" when Anna was little, and we had lots of kids in the neighborhood. We used to invite the neighbor kids in to do science experiments from WonderScience. I would clear away the chairs, open the dining room table to its largest option, and we'd "play" at being scientists when the weather was too rainy, too cold, or too whatever to enjoy the lake where we live.

I want to **thank you for the interest that the ACS sparked in our child**. We had loads of fun, and the entire neighborhood of children learned lots more science than they might have without your inspiration.

As a former teacher, I know what it means to learn years later that work made a difference. Your efforts made a big difference in our lives. Thank you. I have fond memories.

A Letter from Madeleine Jacobs

David Bolliet

On our [website](#), you can find an excerpt from an informative column written by Madeleine Jacobs, ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, published in the December 2011 Councilor Bulletin, where Madeleine discusses the many benefits offered by an ACS membership. (The article was reprinted with permission from the Dec. 2011 Councilor Bulletin)