

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

June 19, 2012

Vol. 2 - Issue 4



Comments from the Chair

Elke Schoffers

Dear Colleagues,

It is difficult to believe that half the year has already passed. I have enjoyed working with a diverse group of chemists thus far. Hopefully you were able to participate in some of the KACS events over the last six months: the “Boost your Career” discussion and mixer; the “Hondatron” Science Café, the “MS User Group” meeting at Bell’s, the “Earth Day” booth at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, the “Science Symposium” and the “KACS Awards Reception” at WMU.

There will be yet another social event at the end of this month: the “Allegan Meet N’ Greet” and crossword puzzle competition on June 22nd; it will take place just around the corner from Perrigo Company. These events could not have been organized without the help and dedication of KACS officers and numerous volunteers. They are paramount to our section. Thank you!



Elke Schoffers congratulates Al Nieboer, this year’s Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher, Kalamazoo Christian High School

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

(Continued on Page 2)

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 (June 2012)

KACS

Friday, June 22, 2012
Allegan Meet 'N Greet

4:30 – 6:30 pm
Dailey's Kitchen
340 Water St, Allegan
(see flyer on Page 3)

**HAVE
A GOOD
SUMMER!**

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

Comments from the Chair

(Continued from Page 1)

You, too, can get involved regardless of whether you are a member or not. There are many opportunities to support KACS in an official or unofficial role. For example, we need many helpers to coordinate National Chemistry Week activities. Please sign up for the October 13 "Chemistry Day at the Museum" to support the hundreds of people who turn out each year. Moreover, I am asking all members to help recruit individuals who would be willing to accept responsibilities as "Chair-Elect" (immediate need as well as for election in the fall for 2013) and for "Treasurer" (during fall elections for a two-year term). Self-nominations are strongly encouraged.

My experience as KACS chair has already been extremely rewarding despite the fact that it added to my workload. Interacting with many new and talented people is a unique experience. And I cannot help but admit my intrigue with a new activity we are planning for the fall. I look forward with keen anticipation to our "Chemistry and Culture" event. Are you curious yet? Get involved!

Thank you for reading.

Elke Schoffers, Ph.D.
Professor (WMU)
Chair - Kalamazoo Section (ACS)

To find your KACS on Facebook, click on the link below or go to
<https://www.facebook.com/ACSKalamazoo> and **LIKE** (👍) us!



Upcoming Event



The KALAMAZOO Section
presents

Allegan Meet 'N Greet

Win \$25

Friday, June 22, 2012
4:30-6:30 pm
Dailey's Kitchen

340 Water St. in Allegan, (269) 512-4878
www.DaileysKitchen.com

Mingle, Puzzle & Celebrate Chemistry

4:30 pm – Refreshments

5:00 pm – Opening Remarks & Highlights of KACS Activities

5:15 pm – Crossword Puzzle Distribution

All are invited to this social event in a charming setting in downtown Allegan. The first correct entry to our chemistry crossword puzzle wins the prize. One entry per person only.

This may be a good time to review those KACS newsletters – just in case!



This event is open to ACS members and their families. Non-members and the general public are also welcome. 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>.

This event is co-sponsored by

Perrigo

39th Annual Awards Reception

Lydia Hines and Don Schreiber

The Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society held its Thirty-ninth Annual Awards Event on Monday, May 21, 2012, in the Chemistry Building Atrium on the campus of Western Michigan University from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. About 100 enthusiastic parents, teachers, awardees, and Section members gathered at this year's event. The Awards event honors excellence in chemical education and service to the Society. Those recognized are from the three counties covered by the Section: Allegan, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties.

Names of outstanding seniors are solicited from high school teachers in our Section's three counties. At the ceremony which followed this year's reception nine outstanding high school chemistry students nominated by their teachers were given a certificate, a check for \$75, and, if present, a Merck Index (14th ed). A list of the students along with his/her high school and nominating teacher is given below.

The twenty winners in the 2012 Competitive High School Chemistry Examination were also presented with checks and certificates and a Merck Index (14th ed). Names of each of these Competitive Scholarship winners can be found below.

Each year, the names of deserving high school chemistry teachers are solicited from our Section's High School principals to bestow the Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher Award. **Al Nieboer** (Kalamazoo Christian High School) was honored this year.

Two college students, **Alex Poulsen**, Western Michigan University, and **Margarite Matossian**, Kalamazoo College, were honored as Outstanding College Chemistry Students. Each received a certificate and a check.

Also honored at the event were **Jochanan Stenesh** (a fifty-year member of the American Chemical Society) and past chairs of the Section, each of whom was given a commemorative lapel pin. Former chairs recognized were **Don Iffland** (1967), **Robert Nagler** (1971), **Robert Kelly** (1974), **Wade Adams** (1982), **John Greenfield** (1994), **John Stodola** (1999), and **Benjamin Maxey** (2003).

The Education Committee organized the Awards Program and is chaired by WMU Chemistry Faculty Dr. Donald Schreiber, chair, and Drs. James Kiddle, Sherine Obare, and Andre Venter, with able assistance from Mrs. Robin Lenkart.

(Continued on Page 5)

39th Annual Awards Reception

(Continued from Page 4)

Outstanding High School Chemistry Students

Ali Butler – Gull Lake High School – Brad Portis
Paul Smith – Hackett Catholic Central High School – Amy Johnston
Eric Thornburg – Kalamazoo Central High School – Mark Branch
Vincent McLain – Kalamazoo Christian High School – Al Nieboer
Kyle Sunden – KAMSC – Joe Thorstenson
Faith Potgiesser – Lawton High School – David Williams
Anna Berglund – Paw Paw High School – Doreen Odiziana
Aaron Thompson – Portage Central High School – Jon Taylor
Ryan Winkels – Portage Northern High School – Michele Mason



2012 Competitive Scholarship Winners

First Place – Stephen John – Portage Central & KAMSC
Second Place (tie) – Lucas Hamelink – Gull Lake & KAMSC
Second Place (tie) – Kyle Sunden – Gull Lake & KAMSC
Fourth Place – Aaron Thompson – Portage Central
Fifth Place – Quinton Colwell – Portage Central & KAMSC
Sixth Place – Cooper Quartermaine – Gull Lake & KAMSC
Seventh Place – Eric Thornburg – Kalamazoo Central
Eighth Place – Lance McCauley – Gull Lake
Ninth Place – Steven Vorbrich – Loy Norrix & KAMSC
Tenth Place (tie) – Nicholas Bertoldi – Mattawan
Tenth Place (tie) – Stephen Norton – Gull Lake



Honorable Mention

Thomas Bannon (Gull Lake), Mark DeFouw (Hamilton), Joshua Dippel (Mattawan), Jane Fisher (Kalamazoo Central), Olivia Goethe (Mattawan), Zachary Hummel (Mattawan), Adam Licavoli (Plainwell), Jeremy Simon (Gull Lake), Paul Smith (Hackett)

Outstanding College Chemistry Students

Outstanding College Chemistry Students: Alex Poulsen (Western Michigan University) and Margarite Matossian (Kalamazoo College)



(Continued on Page 6)

39th Annual Awards Reception

(Continued from Page 5)

Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher

Al Nieboer (Kalamazoo Christian High School) was honored as this year's Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher

Fifty Year Membership

Jochanan Stenesh was honored as a fifty-year member of the American Chemical Society.



Past Chairs

KACS Past-Chairs (left to right): Donald Schreiber, John Greenfield, Benjamin Maxey, Robert Kelly, Lydia Hines, Wade Adams, Robert Nagler, Doug Williams, John Stodola, James Kiddle



KACS Past Chair Don Iffland



Forensics Day in Dow

Margarite Matossian

Thursday May 24th from 3:30-5:00pm was an afternoon filled with excited middle school children, a staged crime scene and forensics experiments; not exactly an average day in Dow Science Building at Kalamazoo College. The Kalamazoo College ACS group decorated Dow with crime scene tape, we outlined a 'dead' body and made fake bloody fingerprints on the windows. Without question, many of the other chemistry and biology students attending their classes who were aware that this event was happening were very confused. We had prepared for this day months in advance: formulating the murder that we would stage, determining which forensics-related experiments we would perform, gathering materials and writing up procedures for each station. Our murder scenario was that two professors have had a long history of arguing over whose chemistry jokes were better. Finally, one professor, Dr. Thomas Smith, could not take it any more and chose to hit Dr. Jeffrey Bartz with a rock, killing him. He left a murder note, bloody fingerprints and footprints. The children had to figure out which professor was the murderer. To do this, they visited a total of five stations: ink analysis, fingerprinting analysis, fiber analysis, blood analysis and handwriting analysis. These children received hands-on experiences with chromatography, microscope use, comparative analysis, acid/base reactions and solution mixing and agglutination. The students rotated around these stations for an hour. Then, all the students and volunteers gathered in a large classroom where we made delicious liquid nitrogen ice cream. The children who attended this event participate in the 'Keeping the Doors Open' math enrichment program that the Kalamazoo College Math Department leads. Each year, we invite these children to teach them how chemistry, biology and physics can be applied in the real world. We had plenty of volunteers from both the math department and the chemistry department to chaperone the children and explain the experimental procedures to them. All in all it was a very enjoyable day for both the children and the volunteers.

The outline of the 'body' in the atrium of the Dow Chemistry Building at Kalamazoo College where the fake murder took place.



Two students from the KDO math enrichment program perform a blood analysis to determine the blood types of blood samples that were found at the scene of the crime.

Announcements

2012 Chemistry Graduate Student Association Barbeque

Alia Hinz

On Friday, June 8, the Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA) at Western Michigan University (WMU) hosted its second annual barbeque for local chemists at Oshtemo Township Park. Members of the Department of Chemistry at Western Michigan University and KACS were invited to join the graduate students for an afternoon of food, fun, and festivities; 37 people attended. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, and assorted side dishes were provided. Activities included a soccer game, disk golf, Frisbee, and football. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, with over 90% of the attendees staying for at least two of the three hours that the barbeque lasted. Given the positive outcome of this event, CGSA would like to host another barbeque next year.

Call for *volunteers* for our 26th Chemistry Day at the Museum: The 25th anniversary of our Society's National Chemistry Week (NCW).

Lydia Hines

The theme for this year's major outreach to our community is "**Nanotechnology: the smallest BIG Idea in Science**", focusing on the nanoscience contributions to the environment, energy, materials, and health. Each year NCW is scheduled for the third full week of October, this year October 21-27. However, because of scheduling concerns our activity at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum this year will be held on **Saturday, October 13, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.**

Over the years we have had a *tremendous impact* on many in our geographical area and even across the state; we have patrons who return to interact with our volunteers, do hands-on activities and observe demonstrations throughout the museum space and sometimes even outdoors. Our longevity has seen youngsters who have grown and now bring their own children to the event. Several times the event has drawn up to 1000 patrons. All this would not be possible without the **willing participation of you, our Members and Student Members**. Needless to say **the Week can include more activities and outreach events than at the museum, so I am always open to opportunities which you may want to suggest and/or spearhead** in Kalamazoo, Allegan and/or Van Buren counties.

It may seem that October is a long time off, but with the summer months, vacations and then the Fall activities taking shape as the weather becomes enticing, I would appreciate it if you would make time **now to reserve October 13** for our outreach activity and [contact me](#) to let me know. Thank You!

Thank You KACS Members!

"Dear Members of the Kalamazoo ACS,

Thank you for bestowing on myself and others the generous scholarships that you hand out. It certainly always feels good to be recognized for the hard work we students put in, and I appreciate your dedication as an organization to learning.

Sincerely, Aaron Thompson " - Portage Central High School