

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

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Consider getting involved

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Comments from the Chair

Elke Schoffers

Dear Colleagues,

You are cordially invited to attend several upcoming events this fall, among them...

- Chemistry Day at the Museum: “Nanotechnology – The Smallest BIG Idea in Science” *Saturday, October 13, 2012, 12-4 PM, Kalamazoo Valley Museum*
- “Doping in Sports: How chemists catch the ‘cheaters’ (sometimes)” by ACS Tour Speaker Thomas C. Werner (Union College) *Tuesday, October 23, 2012 (Mole Day!), 6:30 PM, 1260 Chemistry Bldg, WMU*

We hope that you will participate. We also hope that you will consider volunteering for Museum Day and step up to fill upcoming ACS officer vacancies: Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and National Chemistry Week Coordinator. Please don't hesitate to contact me at Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu to learn more.

The Kalamazoo Local Section cannot succeed without the support of its members and the many people who help out.

Mark your calendar and join us!

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

Attend
Volunteer
Hold an office



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

Upcoming events at a glance (October 2012)

Saturday, October 13, 2012,
12-4 PM, Kalamazoo Valley
Museum

Chemistry Day at the Museum:
"Nanotechnology – The Smallest
BIG Idea in Science"

Tuesday, October 23, 2012
(Mole Day!), 6:30 PM, 1260
Chemistry Bldg, WMU

"Doping in Sports: How chemists
catch the 'cheaters' (sometimes)"
by ACS Tour Speaker Thomas
C. Werner (Union College),

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

Announcements

Pennies for PUR Water – Update

Lydia Hines

As you may recall, during 2011 our Local Section was collecting "Pennies for PUR Water", a project intended to enhance our international outreach, as U.S. chemists, during the International Year of Chemistry.

Our Local Section **contributed \$60** (collected at our meetings and other Local Section programs) to the national effort which netted \$18,000. The amount was presented to Proctor & Gamble's Children's Safe Drinking Water (CSDW) Coalition, ACS' partner in this endeavor. Given the extreme and continued need worldwide for safe and adequate drinking water the project is continuing through 2012.

Contributions by cheque are welcome and should be made payable to ACS, with "Water Project" written in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to the American Chemical Society, 1155 16th Street N.W, Washington, DC 20036 (attn: **Accts Receivable**)

Councilor's Report

Lydia Hines

The KACS Councilor's Report from the 2012 Fall ACS Meeting in Philadelphia may be accessed at our [KACS website](#).

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



Chemistry Day at the Museum

Lydia Hines

Since 1988, when we hosted two, our Kalamazoo Section (KACS) has been hosting a **Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM)** in conjunction with the **2012 ACS National Chemistry Week (NCW)** celebration. This year that week of excitement is October 21-27, and our annual **outreach** to our community will be happening on **Saturday, October 13, from noon to 4 p.m.** This year's emphasis is on the nanoscience contributions to the environment, energy, material and health. **The theme is "Nanotechnology: The Smallest BIG Idea in Science"**; so we will have an opportunity to share with the 800-1000 visitors (ages 4 -104) who come through the Museum doors that day 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, to our medications, to our very breathing are results of chemistry and chemists at work. We will also talk about relative **size** and that **size matters** in the formulation and delivery of chemicals. Children love the fun at the KVM, learn the importance of chemistry, and they and their parents (and teachers) get reading/activity materials to take home and to school.

This is an **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. We get amazing set-up and material support from the KVM, so **PLEASE indicate your willingness to be a volunteer** for that outreach by **sending your name and e-address by September 2,** to our NCW coordinator, Lydia E. M. Hines, at lemhwgh@gmail.com !

Ideas for appropriate activities **may be found at**

- (National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network - NNIN)
<http://www.nnin.org> → NNIN education portal → K-12 teachers → "Link to pdf document" (shows demos with some explanatory info)
- (National Informal Science Education Network – NISE Net)
<http://www.nisenet.org/national-chemistry-week>

Other activities happening in connection with **NCW** are the following:

- We are conducting an **Illustrated Poem Contest for K-12 students** in our Section (**Kalamazoo, Allegan and VanBuren counties**). Student submissions from teachers will be accepted if received by Lydia E. M. Hines through October 26. If you know of a student in K-12 who hasn't heard of this opportunity please contact me with the name/address of his/her teacher.
- A live interview with Keith Roe, host of **Monday Night Live**, will be taped on Monday, October 1, in the studios of Public Media Network for broadcast in advance of October 13; its intent is to generate enthusiasm for chemistry and encourage attendance at Chemistry Day.
- A **Community Event** which emphasizes how we can "Do more with less" is being considered by our WMU **Chemistry Graduate Student Association**.

Miscellaneous

For our Unemployed ACS Members

Lydia Hines and David Bolliet

A couple of comments helpful for our unemployed members:

1) The ACS has a plethora of materials to encourage unemployed members with job searches. For assistance you may visit www.acs.org/careers

2) Also, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) is offering complimentary SciFinder access to unemployed former users to help them in their job search; to be eligible for this free access a scientist must have become unemployed on or after January 1, 2011, from a US or Canadian or European employer that participated with the SciFinder enterprise-wide pricing program. Eligible participants may apply at www.cas.org/products/scifindr/scifinder_special_prog.html

3) We will be posting local job opportunities on our [website](#) as we are made aware of them. If you would like to publish your open positions on our website, please send an email to ACSkzoo@gmail.com. This is a free service.

Expired or Unwanted Medicine – Update

David Bolliet

We are extremely pleased to learn that 587 pounds of expired or unwanted medicine were collected in the first three months of 2012. This represents about 250, 000 pills. Read about it on [MLive](#).

Remember that you can bring your expired or unneeded prescriptions and drop them off at any of these locations. You don't even need an appointment! Drop offs are free and completely anonymous:

- Kalamazoo Township Police Department (Riverview Dr.)
- Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (Crosstown Pkwy.)
- Portage Police Department (Shaver Rd.)
- Kalamazoo Sheriff's Office (Lamont St.)

For more information, please visit www.redmedbox.com

Fall Speaker Announcement



The KALAMAZOO Section
presents

Doping in Sports

How chemists catch the 'cheaters' (sometimes)

Thomas C. Werner
(Union College)

October 23, 2012

6:30 pm, Tuesday (Mole Day)
1260 Chemistry Bldg
Western Michigan University

The alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs has tainted athletic accomplishment since the beginning of sporting competition. Contemporary examples of this sports "doping" problem appear almost daily in the news: pro cycling is brought to its knees by doping allegations, resulting in the loss of sponsorship, the BALCO case and the Mitchell Report pummel Major League Baseball with evidence of steroid use and drug testing concerns become a higher profile issue at the Olympics.

The talk will focus on the methods that chemists use to detect sports doping with substances such as amphetamine, steroids, human growth hormone and EPO. Limitations of these methods will be discussed, along with a listing of some of the enormous challenges facing chemists as newer doping substances and methods become available. The talk is based on a course entitled *Chemistry and Athletic Performance*, which was developed by the speaker with the aid of Dr. Don Catlin and staff at the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory and Anti-Doping Research, Inc.



Stay in touch with KACS at <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>.