

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

April 19, 2013

Vol. 3 - Issue 2



2013 KACS Executive Officers

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Comments from the Chair

Elke Schoffers

Dear Colleagues,

Spring has finally arrived and our Section will offer two Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) activities on April 20. This is also the season for preparing for our Section's Award Reception, which will take place on May 20. Among others, the top high school competitive exam winners and four 50-year members will be recognized.

In this issue you will also learn about our revised process for identifying the annual Outstanding Chemistry High School Teacher awardee, which now includes a simplified online application form. On a somewhat different note, I am happy to report that the Section received two ACS grants to support an upcoming Science Café on horticultural chemistry and a climate change education program, respectively.

(Continued on page 2)



Elke Schoffers, Ph.D.
Professor, (WMU)
Chair (KACS)



New [Online Application](#) for
Outstanding Chemistry Teacher Award

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

Comments from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

As before, the newsletter includes selected KACS activity reports. Our own Chair-Elect John Engelmann gave an enlightening Science Café seminar on patent law and ACS tour speaker Al Hazari from Knoxville, Tennessee, gave an engaging presentation on “Comics in Chemistry”.

Lastly, an article about our Innovative Project Grant (IPG) activity in November 2012, “Chemistry and Culture: Elements of Dance”, was published in a German chemistry journal. It highlights a connection between chemistry and dancing by describing a 19th century artifact.

Thank you for checking in with KACS.

KACS Receives Two Grants

Elke Schoffers

The Kalamazoo Local Section received two ACS grants.

Our application for the "Climate Science Challenge Grant" titled "KACS / WMU Climate Science Collaboration for the Training of Community Leaders" was reviewed favorably and funded! This ACS program was initiated in December 2012 when past ACS president Bassam Z. Shakhshiri announced the availability of the "ACS Climate Science Toolkit" to help its members educate the general public about the fundamental chemical and physical processes that determine Earth's climate. Subsequently, ACS developed this grant opportunity as seed money. Our project will involve a collaboration with WMU's Interdisciplinary Climate Change Study Group with the goal of organizing specific workshops.

The Local Section also received ACS support to organize a fall science Café on horticultural chemistry that will include discussions about plant pigmentation.

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



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Announcements

Earth Day Activities by KACS on Saturday, April 20, 2013

Maren Zanotti

This year the ACS is celebrating its tenth annual Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED), an event aimed at showing Chemists' involvement in preserving the planet we call home. As we have in the past, our local section will be celebrating CCED by participating in the Kalamazoo Nature Center's Earth Day celebration on **April 20, 2013 from 10 AM to 4 PM**, (www.naturecenter.org).

We will be hosting an information table that will feature Earth related chemistry demonstrations and other child-friendly activities. In addition, the KACS will also display information at the Kalamazoo Public Library's Earth Day celebration at the Oshtemo Branch Library (www.kpl.gov/oshtemo/) on **April 20, 2013 from 2:30 to 5 PM**.

This event will be an outdoor concert featuring Michigan musicians who will share their views on the preservation of our planet. Each of these events offers a great opportunity for families to participate in the celebration of Earth Day.

We hope to see everyone there!



Maren Zanotti
2013 CCED Coordinator

KACS Chemistry & Culture Event now published in German Journal

Elke Schoffers

"Tanzelemente" (literally "elements of dance") is the title of a current article in "Nachrichten aus der Chemie" (April 2013, p. 422/23, Wiley), a chemistry journal for ca 80,000 members of the German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker – GDCh).

In this report I describe the Section's IPG event that took place last November at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and attracted 179 participants. I make a historical reference that connects "chemistry" and "dancing". In the public eye, today's chemistry is often associated with negative perceptions such as explosives and environmental pollutants. This is in stark contrast to how chemistry and its practitioners were viewed in the 19th century. The invention of gas lighting at the time was seen as a chemical process that seemed like magic and brought about modernity. City lights helped fight crime that was previously rampant at night. The gasification of coal made it possible to also light up big opera houses and eventually private residences. There exists a custom-made window that used to be part of the director's ballroom on the premises of the Nuremberg gas power station. It was rescued and is now displayed in a museum. With symbolism and historical references, the stained glass window illustrates three different stages for the invention and blessing of gas lighting. The final panel shows a bright, colorful ballroom in which elegantly dressed people celebrate this new chemistry as a progressive science.

Kalamazoo Section Annual Awards Program

Donald Schreiber

The Kalamazoo Section of the ACS will hold its **Forty First Annual Awards Program** on **Monday, May 20, 2013, 6:00 to 8:00 PM** in the Chemistry Building at Western Michigan University. The awards ceremony is held annually to honor outstanding high school senior chemistry students and high school teachers. All are invited to a free reception that begins at 6 PM and is followed by an awards ceremony at 6:45 PM.

The program will include the honoring of Outstanding High School Chemistry seniors from 35 area high schools within the Kalamazoo section area. The section will also present checks and certificates to the winners in the Kalamazoo Section's Competitive Examination contest. Outstanding College Chemistry Seniors from Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University will also be acknowledged.

*We are currently in the process of identifying the **2013 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher** from a Kalamazoo Section area school. If you know of a deserving individual, please forward to him / her the 2-page application form that can be downloaded from the KACS Homepage. **The application can also be filled out and submitted online via a link at www.wmich.edu/acs.** Applications and a letter of support from the principal should be sent to Dr. Donald Schreiber, Department of Chemistry, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5413 by **May 1, 2013**.*

Also to be honored at the banquet will be Kalamazoo Section members who are Fifty-Year ACS members and a special Kalamazoo Section Achievement award will be presented.

There is no cost for the reception, however, we ask that any Kalamazoo Section member or guest who wishes to attend the program to **RSVP by May 13, 2013**, by returning the slip below by mail, by calling Mrs. Robin Lenkart at 387-2846, or email her at robin.k.lenkart@wmich.edu.

PLEASE RETURN by May 13, 2013 to:

Mrs. Robin Lenkart
Chemistry Department
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5413

RSVP Slip

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Places</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	Total Attending	_____

2013 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher

Awarded by the KALAMAZOO LOCAL SECTION of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Instructions:

Applicant:

The applicant can be nominated by the principal or colleagues. Self-nominations are encouraged. The application requires a letter of support from the principal. All materials are due May 1, 2013. An electronic version (Word) of the application can be found at www.wmich.edu/acs. The application can also be filled out and submitted online, see the special Qualtrics link at our homepage.

Principal:

Please evaluate the strengths of the applicant and comment on as many of the following: motivation in the classroom, interactions with students, use of innovative techniques, professional development and outreach activities.

Applications should be mailed to:

Dr. Donald Schreiber
Department of Chemistry
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5413

Past Events

Science Café: "Patents - Why Bother?"

Lydia Hines and Elke Schoffers

The Dow Building at Kalamazoo College hosted a Science Café presentation by our own Section's Chair-Elect, Dr. John Englemann, of Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone, on Wednesday, February 27. An audience of about 25 learned the importance of patents not only in terms of protecting one's invention (something New, Useful and Non-obvious) but also the benefit it can bring to the balance sheet of a business and of an *academic institution*; as Dr. Englemann showed us, there is levity even in a field such as this by giving several examples of "silly patents" which have been granted. He used an invention for which he was the attorney who filed and secured a patent - a flat easy-to-carry podium. He also answered questions from the audience, and at least one attendee expressed an interest in pursuing patent law as a career!



Dr. John Englemann behind the foldable podium.
(Photo by Elke Schoffers)

Past Events

Talk on "Chemistry in Comics" well received

By Lydia Hines with Photos by Elke Schoffers

It was a cool Tuesday, March 26, when about 90 curious listeners - High School students and parents, High school teachers, WMU faculty and graduate and undergraduate students, other ACS members - gathered in a large lecture hall in the Chemistry building at WMU to listen to the titled talk by Dr. Al Hazari Director of Undergraduate Laboratories of the Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville, co-author of a book "Common misconceptions in Chemistry" and recipient of several awards for his Public Outreach activities.

In addition to the unusual title, there were pizza and snacks available to attract listeners - these were enjoyed by a major portion of the audience, too. By way of slides, books, and "toys" Hazari kept our interest in the thought that chemical concepts, from the elements to their properties and reactions, can be found described in comics and in appropriate lighthearted comments in the popular press; these, then, can be used not only to pique but also to engage students' interest and more permanent understanding of chemical/scientific concepts. Dr. Hazari is not given to slow, deliberate presentations, so we were kept actively entertained as he presented his slides. He ended this talk with the demonstration of electrical conductivity by way of his little "travel companion doll" singing.

In the morning of the same day Dr. Hazari offered to speak to a 5th grade class at Haverhill Elementary School in Portage; it was a pleasure to see the children respond with great interest as they participated in his enthusiastic explanation and demonstration of the scientific method and some "unexpected" observations - Dr. Hazari acts on the belief that children are "born scientists" who need to be encouraged to **ask questions** and **learn how to look for answers**.



Dr. Al Hazari's license plate.



Dr. Al Hazari, sharing his passion for chemistry.



The audience, waiting for Dr. Al Hazari's talk.



Dr. Al Hazari (right) carrying out a conduction experiment with WMU chemistry student Brad Thayer.



Dr. Al Hazari (right) carrying out another conduction experiment with WMU chemistry student Tara Maser.

Announcements

Save the Date: ACS Great Lakes Regional Meeting GLRM2013

JUNE 5 – 8, 2013
(Wednesday - Saturday)

**Plan now to join us in La Crosse, Wisconsin for the
2013 ACS Great Lakes Regional Meeting (40th) -- GLRM 2013**

Registration

Abstract Submittal deadline: Midnight, April 22nd, 2013

<http://glrm-lax.sites.acs.org/>

Jessica Brozek, General Chair -- Jessica.Brozek@Hydrite.com

Stacey Glidden, Program Chair -- Stacy.Glidden@mtservices.com

Call for Section Volunteer Award Nominee

Lydia Hines

Each year at our Section's Award Ceremony - where we recognize our 50-year and our 50+ year members, our outstanding High School chemistry students, our Competitive Exam awardees, a High School chemistry teacher and two outstanding College students in chemistry - we also recognize at least one member or friend of our Local Section who has **served** selflessly **over an extended period of time**. We have awarded this recognition to 32 volunteers over 23 years.

If you would like to recommend one or more individual(s) for recognition, please send a note giving the **name(s) and the rationale for the nomination(s)** to the chair of the Awards Committee, Lydia Hines, at lemhwgh@gmail.com by **May 10**. Thank you.

Councilor Report – 245th ACS National Meeting

Lydia Hines

The Councilor report from the 245th ACS National Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 7-11, 2013, can be found on our [website](#).