

KALCHEMIST NEWS

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<http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>

November-December 2003



Message from the Chair Benjamin Maxey

KACS has had a busy fall. We had a record turnout at the John Fortman seminar in September. We presented Salute to Excellence awards to astronaut Jack Lousma, astrophysicist Dr. Jeff Goldstein, and Challenger Center founding chair June Scobee Rodgers in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum's 10 year Challenger Learning Center celebration and National Chemistry Week. Also, we just completed our 17th annual Chemistry Day at the Museum!

Congratulations to George Hines, son of section Councilor Lydia Hines, who received an honorary mention for his haiku at the fall ACS meeting in New York.

Like the rest of the country, we are in our annual election cycle with openings for chair-elect, secretary, and alternate-councilor. The ballot is enclosed. Please **vote by November 21** to ensure we can meet our constitutional commitment.

If you haven't recently, you should visit the ACS website (<http://www.chemistry.org>). The site has membership information, career development help, and lots more!

Finally, this is my last Kalchemist News as your chairman. I would like to thank all the members of the executive committee for their hard work and dedication to a great organization, and to all the volunteers who make our outreach activities so successful. I am confidentially handing the reins to chair-elect Patrick Irish whose enthusiasm will make for an exciting 2004.

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For mailing address changes, please contact Benjamin Maxey
(benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com, 833-9326)

Election of the KACS 2004 Officers

Below you will find a ballot for the election of officers of the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society for 2004. The offices to be filled are Chair-elect, Alternate-Councilor, and Secretary. The Chair-elect is elected for one year (the following year becoming the Chair). The Secretary is elected for a two year term, and the Alternate-Councilor is elected for a term of three years. All officers shall take office on January 1 of the year following the election and the Chair-elect for 2003, Patrick Irish will become Chair for 2004.

Complete your ballot.

Enclose the ballot in a blank envelope and seal it.

Place the blank envelope containing the completed ballot in a second envelope.

Write your signature on the outside of the second envelope.

Address the second envelope to:

*Mr. Benjamin Maxey
Pfizer
0200-87-1
7000 Portage Road
Kalamazoo MI 49001-0199*

The KACS bylaws allow for counting only those ballots which are received sealed in an unmarked envelope which in turn is enclosed in another envelope with your *signature* on it. All ballots must be received by 5 pm on **November 21, 2003** in order to be tallied. Thank you for your prompt response .

2004 Election Ballot

Chair-Elect

- Kent Alleman

Alternate Councilor

- Sheryl Loux

Secretary

- Joan Esson

Fall Tour Speaker Plays to a Full House

On Tuesday, September 23, Dr. John Fortman presented his lively lecture “America’s Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers” to a standing room only crowd of 110 delighted chemists.

The hour passed quickly as Dr. Fortman wove together a history of chemical demonstrations using exciting videoed demos, involving numerous fires and explosions, interspersed with funny anecdotes and much less dangerous live demonstrations.



The evening ended with a hilarious clip from the Letterman Show. High School teacher and renowned demonstrator, Lee Marek, was a guest and proceeded to do his demos on David Letterman—physically on the show’s host—including exploding oxygenated soap bubbles in Dave’s hands, using a CO₂ fire extinguisher to make ‘ink’ disappear from Dave’s shirt, and ending with a barrage of slime shot at Dave from cannons off stage.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Fortman presented his lecture, “The Science of Magic” to the KAMSC junior and senior classes. His lively wit, innuendo, and joy in his work quickly captured the students attention. Using some of magicians favorite slight of hand tricks, he simultaneously taught the science that makes the tricks work while keeping the audience entertained. His techniques are sure to solidify the concepts in the students minds; and, at the least, he taught a few of them how to cheat at cards!

National Chemistry Week Awards Presentation

KACS presented Salute to Excellence awards to three individuals as part of the National Chemistry Week celebration of ‘Earth’s Atmosphere and Beyond:’ Astronaut Jack Lousma, astrophysicist Dr. Jeff Goldstein, and founding chairman of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education June Scobee Rodgers.

The awards were presented at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum during the Challenger Learning Center’s 10th anniversary celebration in October.



Dr. Jeff Goldstein and Dr. June Scobee Rodgers shown with KACS Chair Benjamin Maxey (Jack Lousma, not pictured)

**Seeds grow into trees
Continuing the cycle
Of the life they give**

- George Hines

Congratulations to George Hines whose haiku poem was awarded honorable mention in the Grades 10-12 age group of the Haiku contest for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day last April. The request was for a poem in the haiku format related to the chemistry of trees. A haiku is a three-line "poem" in which the first line has 5 syllables, the second 7, and the third 5 syllables.

<http://www.chemistry.org>

Be sure to check out the ACS website which has lots of information for everyone from K-12 education to career resources for professionals. The following is just a snapshot of the website showing some of the resources available to members.

<p>acs membership</p> <p>Pay your dues online - Renew your ACS Membership and Subscriptions online. ACS Membership Home Page - Information about ACS membership New Member Website - An overview of ACS benefits and services Join ACS - Be a part of the worlds largest scientific society Member Benefits - Some great reasons to join ACS Chemistry - Tabloid for members and student affiliates Annual Report - The 2002 ACS Annual Report. Strategic Mission - The ACS vision for 2001-2003</p> <p>technical divisions</p> <p>Welcome to ACS Divisions - Information for Division officers, members, and prospective members Technical Divisions Home Pages - ACS's Technical Divisions and Secretariats focus on a specific field in chemistry What are Technical Divisions? - The benefits of joining your peers Join a Division - Sign up today by phone, e-mail, or by using our online application</p> <p>local sections</p> <p>Welcome to ACS Local Sections - Information for section members, prospective members, and Section leadership Locate Your Local Section - Find the officers in a local section by state or a 5-digit zip code Local Section Meetings - Find an ACS meeting in your community</p> <p>governance & committees</p> <p>ACS Directors - ACS's chief governing body Committee Home Pages - Gives members an opportunity to contribute their vision to the direction of the Society Charter, Constitution, Bylaws, and Regulations - Also known as Bulletin 5</p>



2003-2004 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

- November 6 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Pfizer B126 CR, 4:30pm
- November 8 Chemistry Day at the Museum, Noon to 4pm, Kalamazoo Valley Museum
(Benjamin Maxey, 833-3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)
- December 4 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Pfizer B126 CR, 4:30pm
-

KACS Website Address: <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>

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