

Newsletter for the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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2018 KACS Executive Officers

Chairperson

Steve Secreast

chair@kalamazooacs.org

Past-Chairperson

Dr. Brian Eklov

brian@eklov.org

Chairperson-Elect

Lucas Chadwick

lchadwick@bellsbeer.com

Secretary

Angela Willson

angelamwillson@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bill Schinzer

bschinzer@arrowps.net

Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines

lemhwgh@gmail.com

Alternate Councilor

Dr. Doug Williams, Kalsec, Inc.

dwilliams@kalsec.com

Issue Highlights...

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Report of Spring Events



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Mark Your Calendar!

August 2018... 25th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education

The conference will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN from July 29 through August 2, 2018. This is open to non-ACS members. Register onsite at McKenna Hall Conference Center. For more information, visit www.bcce2018.org/

September 2018... Speed-Networking

September 26, Wednesday, will be our 2nd Speed- Networking event to be held again this year at the Kalamazoo College Hicks Center.

October 2018... Joint Virtual Broadcast with Huron Valley Section

Thursday, October 4, a presentation on Careers in Chemistry by Dr. Lisa Balbes of Balbes Consultants who will give a live presentation at Kalamazoo College starting at 7 pm (say tuned about specifics); this event is a collaboration between our section and the Huron Valley Section, and the event will be broadcast virtually to about 5 other sections in MI and Illinois.

October 2018... Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

October 13, Saturday, from noon to 4 pm we will need a lot of helping hands from our members for our annually-anticipated and well-attended (~1000 children and adults) Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in conjunction with National Chemistry Week, whose theme this year is "Chemistry is out of this world". We would love to hear that you are interested in volunteering; please contact Lydia Hines at 269-375-7349 or lemhwgh@gmail.com - advanced planning makes the event more pleasurable.

November 2018... Recycle-a-Poster at Bells Eccentric Cafe

Elke Schoffers is planning our popular annual Recycle-a-Poster event at Bells Eccentric Cafe Back room; it is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, from 5 to 9 pm. So dust off an old poster or prepare a new presentation and join colleagues for a good evening of networking. More information will be sent closer to the event.

May 2019... Great Lakes Regional Meeting

Make your plans now to attend and participate in the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Meeting, the region's 43rd, to be held May 1 - 4 at the Sheraton Hotel on Warrenville Road in Lisle, IL. Information about the Region can be found at greatlakesregionacs.sites.acs.org and about the meeting at www.2019acsglrm.org/

KACS at El Sol Elementary

In April KACS visited El Sol Elementary School in Kalamazoo to do some hands-on chem experiments with the El Sol 5th graders. We had the students do a chem separation on silica solid-phase extraction cartridges, a chem oxidation using nine volt batteries, and a chem reduction using glucose. The 5th graders were amazing and very, very smart. The experiments were well-received, and we recommend these for school and event demos (for details contact Steve at chair@kalamazooacs.org). The 5th graders were very happy having members of WMU's Chem Club present, with autographs being requested.

Many thanks to the WMU Chem Club - Greg, Emily, Megan, Renae and Emily, Margarita Pinto, and Steve Seceast.



KACS at Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival

Once again this spring, KACS was a sponsor and worked a display table for the 2nd annual Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival in Bronson Park. We showed Kalamazoo how glucose can sometimes be used as a green chem reagent for doing reduction reactions. And had a lot of fun working with indigo carmine as a very visual, reversible pH and redox indicator.

Many thanks to the KACS members who worked our table: Luke Chadwick, Greg Johnson, Tom Runge, Steve Secest and Doug Williams.



KACS at the Kalamazoo Marathon

On May 6, 2018 KACS worked the Kalamazoo Marathon 15 mile-marker water stop. A fun time was had by all, passing high-quality H₂O to the runners from our chemistry-themed water stop.

We were happy to cheer on Evan Williams, son of KACS Alternate Councilor Doug Williams, as Evan sped past our water stop on his way to winning the marathon for the second year in a row. According to the race website, 424 runners finished the marathon.

Many thanks to the intrepid KACS water stop crew: Jeff Bartz, Cathy Ervin, Anthony Ervin, Kim Lewis, Tom Mulhern, Margarita Pinto, Elke Schoffers, Steve Secreast, Susan Sheehan, Denis Sobieray, John Stodola, Kristi Tullis, Mike Walsh, and Jenny (Kristi's friend).



KACS Salutes KPL

If you are a pre-school or elementary school aged person (or have kids or grandkids that age), and you've spent time at the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL), chances are you've heard of Little Scientists, Super Science, Slime Works, Chemical Kim and/or Science Flix. These science-based programs are part of what makes KPL such an asset to Kalamazoo.

To recognize these programs and the additional outstanding STEM-related work of the KPL staff, KACS awarded KPL an ACS *Salutes to Excellence* Award. *Salutes to Excellence* is an ACS recognition award given to underscore outstanding accomplishments, achievements or service for individuals and groups who have made a positive impact on everyday life. Honorees may be practitioners of chemistry, products of chemistry or places of importance in chemistry within our community. And KPL most definitely is a place of community importance.

The *Salutes to Excellence* Award was presented to Susan Warner, Head of the KPL Youth Services Department, at the 7 May Annual KACS Award Night.



KACS at the CGSA Picnic

On May 10, 2018 the Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA) hosted a spring picnic for the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff of the Department of Chemistry, and KACS members. The aim of this event was to encourage socializing and networking within the WMU Chemistry Department and community members. With about 40 people attending, students were able to make new connections, as well as catch up with old friends. Thank you KACS for joining us for this event.

We hope to see you next year!



KACS at the Annual Awards Gathering

The young people were present in fine attire on a lovely May Monday afternoon in the foyer of the Chemistry Building on the WMU campus, along with teachers, friends and/or parents, to receive awards based on achievements in their chemistry studies.

It was our section's 45th annual Awards Gathering where we recognize high school students and teachers, as well as college students, section members who have served the American Chemical Society for many years, and others in the community and of our membership whose contributions have been noteworthy. This year for the first time we also recognized our Project SEED student, Victor Plascencia (Comstock HS), and Kalamazoo College's Dr. Dwight Williams, his mentor over the 10-week summer research program,

Though none of our six long-time members (1-50 years, 2-60 years, 1-70 years, and 2-76 years) was able to be with us, our councilor, Lydia E. M. Hines, did present a recognition certificate to Dr. Donald Iffland at his home that afternoon; a retiree from the WMU Chemistry Department he served as Section chairman in 1967 and 1968. Our member volunteer for his able and willing service for many years was Dr. James Kiddle. This year we also gave awards to two of our Section's HS teachers for their many years of instilling enthusiasm for chemistry in their students – Mr. Brad Portis at Gull Lake HS and Mrs. Doreen Odziana at Paw Paw HS. A separate short description is given in a separate article regarding the Salute-to-Excellence award given to the Kalamazoo Public Library's representative Susan Warner.

Since "pictures are worth 1000 words" below you see some of the students and the teachers who were recognized:



*Teacher Awardees
Mr. Brad Portis at Gull Lake HS and
Mrs. Doreen Odziana at Paw Paw HS*



2018 Teacher-nominated Outstanding HS Chemistry Students



2018 Competitive Exam Top 12 Awardees and Competitive Exam Top Honorable Mention Awardees



Dr. Iffland (76-year ACS member) receiving certificate

**Do you have questions, comments, or would like to contribute to this newsletter?
Send an email to Christine Prais, Communication Chair at ACSkzoo@gmail.com**