

KALCHEMIST NEWS

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KACS WEBSITE:

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

September-October 2003



Message from the Chair Benjamin Maxey

The local section has been very busy in these waning days of summer.

Dr. John Fortman will be presenting his lecture “**America's Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers**” on **Tuesday, September 23**, in 226 Dow Science Building at Kalamazoo College. There will be a reception before hand.

The annual “**Chemistry at the Museum**” is coming on **Saturday, November 8**, at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. We need lots of volunteers to help during this great event. Please contact Benjamin Maxey (benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com, 833.3623) to volunteer.

Finally, with the losses as a result of the Pfizer acquisition and the upcoming annual elections, we need you to get more involved in the local section. There are openings in a number of positions including **Kalchemist News Editor, National Chemistry Week Coordinator, Secretary, Chair-elect, Alternate-Councilor, and Public Relations Coordinator.**

If we cannot fill these open positions this informative newsletter and/or many of the beneficial activities of the section will have to be cut. Please contact Benjamin Maxey (benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com, 833-3623), or any Executive Committee member, if you are interested in helping keep the local section alive.

Thanks, Benjamin

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

**The American Chemical Society Kalamazoo Local Section is pleased to
announce their fall Tour Speaker**

Dr. John Fortman



Presenting

**America's Funniest Chemical Video's:
Dazzling Demo's and Videotaped
Bloopers!**

When: Tuesday, September 23, at 5:00pm
(Reception preceding the lecture from 4:30 to 5:00pm)

Where: 226 Dow Science Center
On the campus of Kalamazoo College

“I have collected and edited many misadventures that Rubin Battino and I experienced in doing demonstration shows that were videotaped live. Difficulties encountered in the studio preparation of our three hour set of videotaped demonstrations were also saved. These will make up one part of these showings. Gil Haight has given me permission to show portions of his Haightful Perils of Teaching, which are spectacular in spite of technical problems. A videotape of Hubert Alyea doing his Old Nassau demonstration will be shown along with some tapes of others caught in live demonstrations that presented problems.” Dr. John Fortman

**Contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)
with any questions.**

Calling All Volunteers!

Chemistry Day at the Museum

Once again the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS is sponsoring "Chemistry Day the Museum" in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, and we need volunteers to help make this wonderful event successful!

When: Saturday, November 8, Noon to 4pm.

Where: Kalamazoo Valley Museum (downtown)

The theme this year is "Earth's Atmosphere & Beyond!"

If you haven't come to this event before, we have a variety of hands on experiments for kids of all ages to try. We need you to help the kids with the interactive experiments. It is a great way to spend an afternoon!

As always, we are looking for new experiments to show the kids; of particular interest are experiments involving the atmosphere. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Also, we need a few energetic souls to coordinate the experiments.

If you are interested in volunteering, coordinating an experiment, or recommending a new experiment, please contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)

Executive Committee Openings

Election time is rapidly approaching and we are in need of new blood on the KACS Executive Committee. With the losses as a result of the Pfizer acquisition in addition to the normal election cycle, we have a number of openings, including the following positions:

Kalchemist News Editor

National Chemistry Week Coordinator

Secretary

Chair-elect

Alternate-Councilor

Public Relations Coordinator

If you have enjoyed the events or services of the local section, please consider joining us hard working souls on the executive committee.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact Benjamin Maxey (833.3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com) or Patrick Irish (833.6818, patrick.a.irish@pfizer.com).

High School Students Spend their Summer Working in the Laboratory Instead of a Local Fast Food Restaurant

Last summer three area high school students spent their summer in the WMU Chemistry Department participating in the ACS's Project SEED (Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged) Program. Project SEED is part of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) commitment to the development of a scientific work force that is more broadly representative of the American population. The program was established in 1968 by the ACS to help expand the career outlook of high school students from families defined as economically disadvantaged by federal poverty guidelines. Students are paid a stipend for working in a chemistry related laboratory. The local program has been sponsored by the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS on a grant from the National Society for the last twelve years. During this time about fifty high school students have been placed in academic and industrial laboratories in Kalamazoo and the surrounding area.



Agelica Hernandez



Timasha Wood talking with Dr. David Reinhold

To qualify the students must have completed their sophomore year in good academic standing, have taken at least one course in chemistry and be recommended by their chemistry teacher or other school official. Students are selected based on their qualifications and letters of recommendation. This past summer the program kicked off in early June, and went through the first week in August. We had two new students join the program: DeShawna Stevenson, from Kalamazoo Central High School and Angelica Hernandez from Loy Norrix High School. DeShawna worked in Dr. Reinhold's lab on the effect of carnosic acid on nickel toxicity, while Angelica worked in Dr. Muralidharan's lab synthesizing and characterizing mixed thiol monolayers on gold nanoparticles.

The third student, Timasha Woods, was a returning student from Kalamazoo Central High School, who rejoined Dr. Huffman's group (students are allowed to spend two years in the program). Timasha has been studying the metal-binding domain of Wilson Disease protein and is presenting her work at this fall's National ACS Meeting. Both Timasha and Angelica have chosen to attend Kalamazoo College this fall.



DeShawna Stevenson

Matching funds for the grant have come from a number of local donors over the years, including most recently, A.M. Todd Company, Kalsec Inc. and Pfizer Inc. Companies or individuals interested in donating to or who want more information about the local Project SEED Program should contact:

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The Project SEED Reception, August 7
(Left to Right: DeShawna Stevenson, David Achila, Jennifer Bunce (seated), Dr. David Huffman, Timasha Woods, Dr. Lydia Hines, Dr. Don Schreiber, Dr. Subra Muralidharan)



2003 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

- September 23 “America’s Funniest Chemical Video’s: Dazzling Demo’s and Videotaped Bloopers!” presented by Dr. John Fortman. 4:30pm reception, 5:00pm lecture. 226 Dow Science Center, Kalamazoo College. (Benjamin Maxey, 833-3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)
- October 2 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 4:30pm
- November 6 KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 4:30pm
- November 8 Chemistry Day at the Museum, Noon to 4pm, Kalamazoo Valley Museum (Benjamin Maxey, 833-3623, benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)
-

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

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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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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.</p> <p>ACS Membership Home Page - Information about ACS membership</p> <p>New Member Website - An overview of ACS benefits and services</p> <p>Join ACS - Be a part of the worlds largest scientific society</p> <p>Member Benefits - Some great reasons to join ACS</p> <p>Chemistry - Tabloid for members and student affiliates</p> <p>Annual Report - The 2002 ACS Annual Report.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Technical Divisions Home Pages - ACS's Technical Divisions and Secretariats focus on a specific field in chemistry</p> <p>What are Technical Divisions? - The benefits of joining your peers</p> <p>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</p> <p>Locate Your Local Section - Find the officers in a local section by state or a 5-digit zip code</p> <p>Local Section Meetings - Find an ACS meeting in your community</p> <p>governance & committees</p> <p>ACS Directors - ACS's chief governing body</p> <p>Committee Home Pages - Gives members an opportunity to contribute their vision to the direction of the Society</p> <p>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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