



# The KalChemist News

January 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 1

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## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
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### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude  
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### Chair-Elect

Dr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
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### Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines  
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### Alternate Councilor

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
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## 2020 ~ A Virtual ChemLuminary Awards Celebration

By Lydia E. M. Hines

*KACS Councilor and Outreach coordinator*

Each year at the Fall ACS meeting a Tuesday night is devoted to a very exuberant gathering of members, associated with the announcement of awards given by 23 committees of the ACS to individuals and groups within the ACS for achievements of many

sorts, either during the previous year, or over many years. It is preceded with a spread of hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the ACS and a presentation of posters displaying pictures of recognition-worthy activities done by "finalists" selected from nominations submitted by local sections (through their Annual Reports), or from individual members who nominate others whose accomplishments are deemed noteworthy (according to rubrics and applications which may be found on the ACS website). Following the review of the posters and enjoyment of the food the celebration moves to a separate decorated hall where finalists are announced – with pictures shown on a big screen of the achievements which earned them that status – and the winner recognized with a plaque (ChemLuminary Award); each awardee is appropriately cheered (clapping and yelling) by the audience.



**We were selected as a finalist for an award for outstanding performance for a section of our size.**

It had been several years since our Section had won an award for its efforts, and after a couple of years of not nominating ourselves through our Annual Report, we did so for our 2019 activities and were informed that we had been selected as a **finalist for an award from the LSAC (Local Section Activities Committee) for outstanding performance for a section of our size (Medium Small: 200-399 members)**; on the day of the Award Celebration we found out that our "competitor sections" were the Dayton and the Savannah River Sections.

**ChemLuminary, continued on page 2**

## ChemLuminary, continued from page 1

Since there was no in-person meeting in San Francisco in the fall of 2020, the ACS staff developed a virtual ChemLuminary celebration, which was widely publicized and happened at 4 pm on December 9, 2020; in place of the excited clapping and yelling described above there was a **chat box** which was full of scrolling congratulatory comments commending finalists and winners. Excitement was high when the three finalists in our category were named, and our activities for 2019 were memorable – (see sample list below\*) – but when the winner was announced, that section was Dayton – disappointing, yes, yet exciting to have been selected as a finalist!

\* > NHCL dedication and ceremony at KVM – celebration of Steroid Research at The Upjohn Co. 1950-90s *March*

> Awards Gathering – recognition of HS students, active members, volunteers, and multi-year ACS members. *May*

> Project SEED (2 students, mentors Dr. Dwight Williams @ K and Dr. Kelly Teske @ WMU) *Summer*

> Speed-Networking event at K College *September*

> NCW – 33<sup>rd</sup> Chemistry Day at the Museum *October*

> IYPT Celebration with Beer events *October*

> Recycle-a-Poster Event at Bell's Back Room *November*

KACS did have a winner mentioned during the ceremony: The second announcement at the program was by the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) whose chair named our councilor and many-year Outreach coordinator, Lydia E.M. Hines, as the recipient of the Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach.

## Project SEED 2021: Looking Back and Planning Ahead

By Doug Williams

*KACS Project SEED Coordinator*

In June of 2020 we [wrote](#) that ACS canceled in-person research opportunities for Project SEED due to the COVID pandemic and provided an alternative, four-week Virtual Summer Camp experience that included small and large group learning and presentation activities. Many students were supplied with computers and internet connection devices to help them participate. One of two applicants from our section was selected to participate at no cost to our local chapter. It was an impressive adaptation to the challenges at the time and, by all reports, a significant success for ACS. Of the 300 students selected, 291 completed the program. Surveys suggest that students were favorably influenced to pursue additional studies in science. The most popular sessions were a research presentation on vaccines for opioid addiction, a webinar on ethics in science and a panel discussion on the transition from high school to college.

Much pandemic uncertainty remains in 2021. ACS plans to reintroduce in-person research options this year, if possible, and expects to make a go/no go decision on this key element by February 1. If this is approved, I will be reaching out immediately to our recent project host sites for proposals. This will require a quick turn-around, so please think ahead about possibilities and contact me at [dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com), if you are interested in, or just curious about, serving as a mentor in Summer 2021. Secondly, ACS will again offer virtual programming again at no direct cost to local sections and with preference given to applicants who are not able to participate in the in-person programs, if available.



Although we are budgeted locally for up to two in-person Project SEED fellowships this year (about \$1500 per student), we are always hopeful to expand. We turned several students away in 2019 and expect at least 5-10 applications again this year. If you feel so inclined, you can donate to our KACS Project SEED Fund by [PayPal](#). All amounts are greatly appreciated and are reserved exclusively for student stipends. Contributions are eligible for tax-deduction.



# 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting Information

By Lydia E. M. Hines

*Great Lakes Region Board chair*

The Great Lakes Region of the ACS, of which Kalamazoo Section is a part, holds Regional Meetings every other odd-numbered year, as member sections offer to host or co-host a meeting in their geographic area (the last meeting in which our section played a major role was in May of 2015 in Grand Rapids; we and the Western MI section (a member of the Central Region and head-quartered in Grand Rapids were co-hosts). Regional meetings often present symposia, plenary lectures, an exposition, career resources, poster sessions/flash talks, award gatherings etc. in an effort to present a variety of events to our members.



All this to inform you that **Yes, there will be a Great Lakes Regional Meeting in 2021, June 6-9; it will be held VIRTUALLY and hosted by the Minnesota Section.** The website is <https://www.glr2021.org>; visiting that site regularly will give you updated information regarding the full program, abstract submission dates and registration details.

The organizing committee is hard at work making every effort to provide a positive experience for all attendees. VIRTUAL meetings provide excellent opportunities to present your work, “hone” your speaking skills and network with a large variety of colleagues – occasionally even internationally! (see **below\*** for information regarding 4 awards which may be presented at GLRM2021).

As long-time representative of our Local Section to the Great Lakes Region Board, and its current chair, I would like to **encourage you** to submit an abstract, present your research, and participate as fully as your schedule allows. Abstracts of presented papers are included in the same CAS database as abstracts submitted to National Meetings!

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## \*Call for Award Nominations GLRM 2021



By Susan Shih

*Great Lakes Region Awards Chair*

Four awards will be considered for the 2021 GLRM. A description of each and a link to its application are below. Members are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals for these awards. Please let our KACS chair know of your suggestion regarding a nominee and your willingness to complete a nomination for that person. **The deadline for the Stan Israel Diversity award is March 1, 2021; any nominations for that award should be submitted to the National ACS as indicated in the nomination information.**

All other nominations should be submitted no later than **April 1** to James Wollack, [jwollack@stkate.edu](mailto:jwollack@stkate.edu), Awards Chair for the GLRM2021.

## **Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences**

The Stanley C. Israel Regional Award recognizes individuals and/or institutions who have advanced diversity in the chemical sciences and significantly stimulated or fostered activities that promote inclusiveness within the region.

The award consists of a medal and a \$1,000 grant to support and further the activities for which the award was made. The award also will include funding to cover the recipient's travel expenses to the ACS regional meeting at which the award will be presented.

Nominees may come from academia, industry, government, or independent entities, and may also be organizations, including ACS Local Sections and Divisions. The nominee must have created and fostered ongoing programs or activities that result in increased numbers of persons from diverse and underrepresented minority groups, persons with disabilities, or women who participate in the chemical enterprise. **The deadline is March 1, 2021.**

Further information and a link to the online application can be found at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/other/diversity/stan-israel-award.html>

## **Division of Chemical Education Region Awards for Excellence in High School Teaching**

In 2006, The Division of Chemical Education established an endowment to underwrite an Awards Program designed to recognize, encourage, and stimulate outstanding teachers of high school chemistry in the ten Regions of the American Chemical Society.

Nominees must be actively engaged in the teaching of chemistry or a chemical science in a high school (grades 9-12) on at least a half-time basis.

The Region Award consists of a \$1,000.00 cash award and an engraved plaque. Travel expenses to the meeting at which the Award will be presented will be reimbursed.

Additional information and the application details can be found at the following link. Only complete application portfolios will be considered. **Deadline for receipt of the applications is April 1, 2021.**

<https://www.divched.org/award/divched-region-awards-excellence-high-school-teaching>

## **E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society**

**Purpose:** To recognize the volunteer efforts of individuals who have served the American Chemical Society, contributing significantly to the goals and objectives of the Society through their regional activities.

**Eligibility:** A nominee must be a member of the American Chemical Society residing in a local section within the region, and will have made significant contributions to their region of the American Chemical Society. The volunteerism to be recognized may include a variety of activities, including but not limited to the initiation or sponsorship of a singular endeavor or exemplary leadership in the region. *Past and present members of the ACS Board of Directors and staff are ineligible for this award.* The awards committee of the region, or its equivalent, will select the recipient. **The deadline is April 1, 2021.**

**Establishment & Support:** This award was instituted in 2006 by ACS Past President E. Ann Nalley as part of her presidential initiative to recognize ACS volunteerism. It is Dr. Nalley's wish that the award continue in perpetuity at each regional meeting.

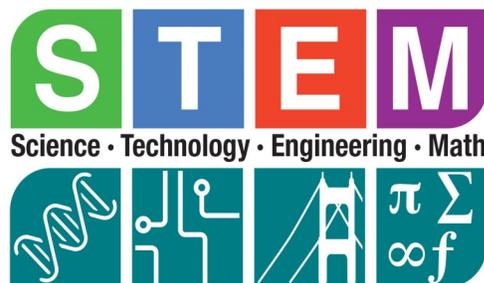
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/regional/e-ann-nalley-regional-award-for-volunteer-service-to-the-american-chemical-society.html>

### Partners for Progress and Prosperity Award

**Purpose:** To encourage and recognize *successful and exemplary partnerships*, a Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award was established as an award to be given by Local ACS Sections, ACS International Chapters, and ACS Regional Meetings.

These partnerships can be between industry, academia, government, small business and/or other organizations, including ACS local sections, ACS divisions, ACS international chapters, other societies or various entities domestic or overseas resulting in impactful outcomes in one or more of the following categories:

- Improving the public perception and appreciation for chemistry
- Promoting career advancement opportunities and/or supporting entrepreneurship in the chemistry enterprise
- Advancing advocacy efforts with government and other thought leaders
- Supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education and/or research



The award will consist of a Partners for Progress and Prosperity medallion plus a framed certificate of recognition.

**Eligibility:** A nominee may represent academia, industry, government, small business or other organizations such as a Local Section. Partnerships can include international ACS chapters, ACS divisions, or other entities domestic or overseas. The awards committee of the ACS Regional Meeting Board or the local section or international chapter will select the P3 Award winners. The International Activities Committee will select the winners of the Global P3 Award. **The deadline is April 1, 2021.**

The nomination package should include:

- A letter of nomination describing the partnership, its activities, outcomes and impact
- At least one, but no more than three, supporting letters
- Mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for nominee and supporters must be provided



### Executive Committee Greetings

Our KACS Executive Committee wishes you a Healthy, Happy and Productive 2021. We hope to have this Newsletter in your inbox monthly, so please be on the lookout for it!



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## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### **Chair**

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
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### **Past-Chair**

Dr. Hershel Jude  
[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

### **Chair-Elect**

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
[benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)

### **Secretary**

Dr. James Redwine  
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### **Treasurer**

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
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### **Alternate Councilor**

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[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

## National ACS President to address KACS

We will have a very special guest for our February 22 meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m.:

**H. N. Cheng, Ph.D.**  
**2021 President,**  
**American Chemical Society**

To RSVP and receive a ZOOM link, contact Ed Thomas at [edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com).

**Title: Sustainability and Green Chemistry**

### Abstract

With increasing public awareness of climate change, environmental pollution, and earth's declining resources, sustainability and green chemistry have become hot topics these days. In 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to be achieved in 2030. As polymers are being used all around us, they play a major role in the achievement of these goals. In this talk, the speaker will provide an overview of the sustainability initiatives at American Chemical Society (ACS) and his platform as ACS President in 2021. He will also cover selected polymer research and development (R&D) areas that are related to sustainability and green polymer chemistry. The following examples will be shown: 1) to use natural renewable raw materials (e.g., polysaccharides, proteins, and triglycerides) as source materials for new chemistry and products; 2) to exploit biocatalysts (e.g., enzymes and micro-organisms) for chemical and polymer conversions; 3) to apply green chemistry concepts to conversion and processing; and 4) to develop green methodologies to promote the development of green products. In view of the relevance of sustainability and green polymer chemistry to our society, we can expect to see continued R&D and commercial activities relating to this field in the future.

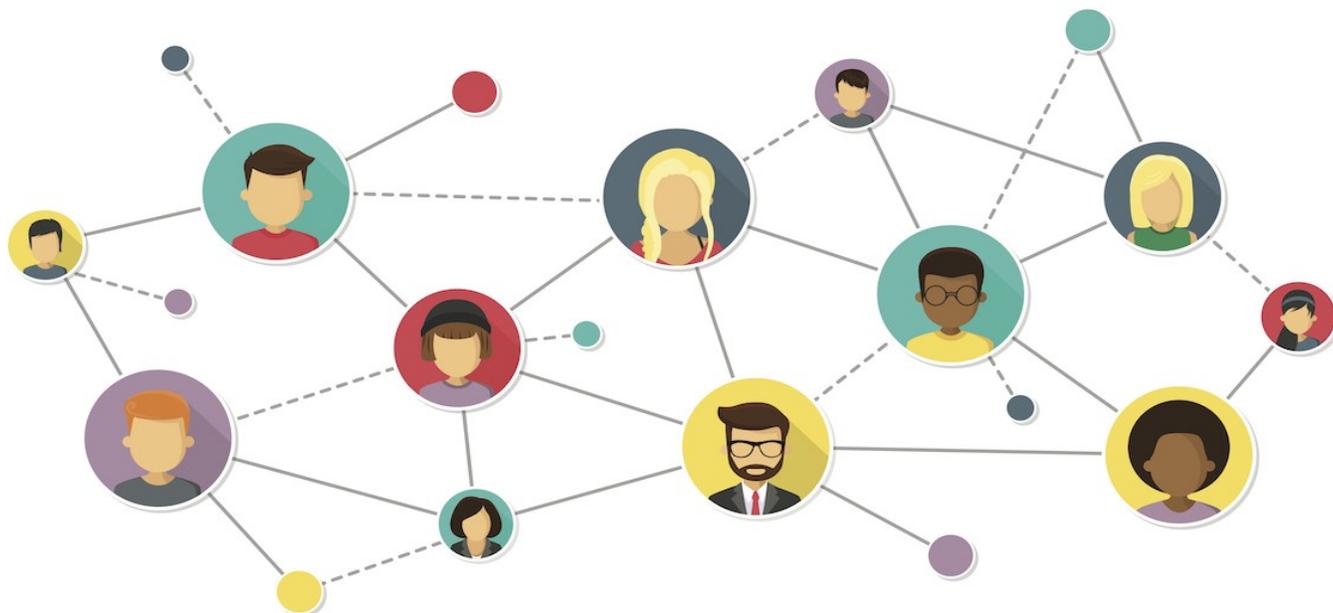


### Biography

H. N. Cheng is the ACS President in 2021. He has been active at ACS for many years and has served in many leadership roles at local, division, and national levels. He obtained his B.S. from UCLA and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at



**PRESIDENT, continued on page 3**



## KACS Holds Virtual Speed-Networking Event on January 26

By Lucas Chadwick and Blakely Tresca

Kalamazoo College and the Kalamazoo ACS hosted the 4th annual Speed Networking Night over Zoom this year. After Dr. Blakely Tresca welcomed everyone, Dr. Jeff Bartz gave a brief history of the award-winning speed-networking event. For the virtual event, mentors and students were paired up in breakout rooms for 10-minute discussions. After the first breakout session, Dr. Ed Thomas presented the many benefits of ACS membership for students, the need to revitalize the Education Committee, and welcomed all to participate in the KACS local section. The night continued with five alternating networking breakouts and presentations by invited speakers. Other presentations included an overview of career-building resources by Dr. Tricia Zelaya-Leon from the K-college Career Development Center, an impassioned plea from Dr. Ed Thomas for personnel in academia to get more involved in the KACS Education Committee. The highlight of the night was Mr. Benjamin Maxey's presentation on the story of Covid-19 vaccine production at Pfizer here in Kalamazoo. The night concluded with one last breakout session. After the event, a list of contacts was circulated for mentors and students to continue their conversations. We are hopeful the connections that were made will benefit students and mentors alike for many years to come. Overall, our first-ever virtual chemistry speed-networking event was a resounding success, and we look forward to working with this format more in the future.

*As a Section we extend our appreciation those who contributed time and expertise for our Virtual Speed-Networking Event:*

Andrew Anderson  
Liz Barren  
Jeff Bartz  
Jonathan Bisson  
Lucas Chadwick  
Brian Eklov  
David Erdman  
Brianna Galli  
Andrew Hepburn

Lydia E. M. Hines  
Jacob Kirkendall  
Benjamin Maxey  
Brian T. Murphy  
Christine Prais  
Tomasz Respondek  
William C. Schinzer  
Derek Sheehan  
Jackie Srodes

Carl Stachew  
Kelly Teske  
Edward Thomas  
Lauren Torres  
Blakely Tresca  
Rodney Walters  
Meg Whitener  
Hua Yuan  
Tricia Zelaya-Leon

# Project SEED 2021—Heading Back to Camp

By Doug Williams

*KACS Project SEED Coordinator*

After careful review, ACS has decided to cancel in-person Project SEED research programs again this summer. With this decision, ACS will focus on staffing and running an expanded Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp from June 21 – July 30 (6 weeks) for 450-470 high school students from disadvantaged situations. Please see and share this [brochure](#) for more details. The student application portal is expected to open by April. A student information session was given online February 9, which was recorded and can be viewed by registering [here](#). ACS webpages provide additional details about [Summer Camp](#) and [eligibility requirements](#). A time commitment of 20-25 hours per week is expected and students who complete the program will receive a \$1,000 stipend.



ACS is seeking chemists and other specialists to volunteer to support the Summer Camp program.

- Camp Managers will oversee a group of 10-30 students and 2-6 Cabin Leaders (see below) and host weekly meetings.
- Mentors will share their work with a “cabin” (8-10 students) by introducing the students to their science and developing projects or activities for the students to work on over the course of six weeks.
- Webinar facilitators will give presentations relevant to high school student development in pursuing STEM education. Presentations with high-engagement approaches are desirable.

ACS plans to hire even more Cabin Leaders this year. These are typically graduate students or undergraduate students in chemistry who will be online with their cabin each day to facilitate participation and serve as go-to leaders and role models for the participants. Flyers for Cabin Leaders will be available by early March and the applications will open soon after.

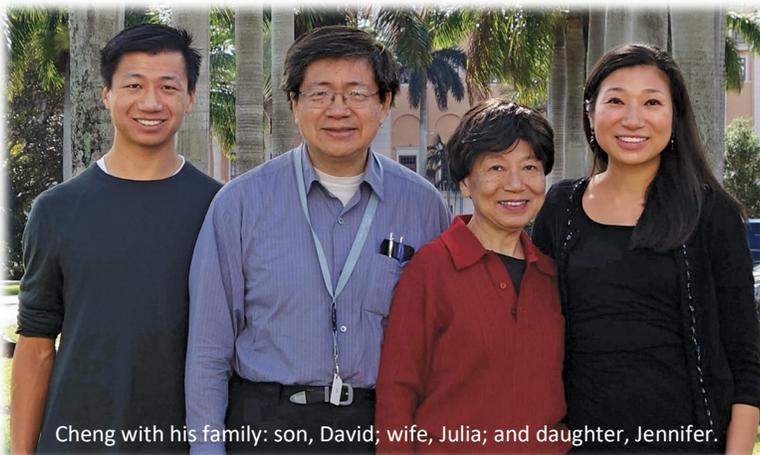
To get in touch or stay informed directly with Project SEED, please visit this [page](#) to sign up for email updates. As always, I am available to help you with questions or challenges related to Project SEED. You may reach me at [dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com).

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## **PRESIDENT, continued from page 1**

Urbana-Champaign. He currently works at USDA Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans. Over the years, he has been involved with the use of agro-based materials, biocatalysis, green processing, and green methodology. He has also contributed to polymerization theory and polymer NMR. He has authored or co-authored 280 papers and 26 patent publications. He has organized 43 symposia at national meetings since 2000 and edited 21 books.

He was selected as a Fellow of the ACS (2009), a Fellow of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (2010), and a Fellow of the ACS Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division (2018), among other recognition and awards.



Cheng with his family: son, David; wife, Julia; and daughter, Jennifer.

# Message from the KACS Chair

By Ed Thomas

Kalamazoo American Chemical Society Members, I look forward to serving as your chair during 2021. I will work closely with Ben Maxey, Chair-elect, Hershel Jude, Past-chair, Doug Williams, Treasurer, James Redwine, Secretary, Lydia Hines, Councilor, all the chairs of our committees and you the members to make this a scientifically and socially beneficial year.



My goals for our section this year are three: to increase member participation, to continue providing interesting scientific activities for members and our community, and to continue having our Section serving as a platform for our chemists to reach out to teachers and students.

I recognize many of the activities during 2020 were postponed or cancelled for our section and in our own lives. As much as possible, activities were conducted virtually: our monthly executive committee meetings, award ceremonies, Project SEED, and Chemistry Week. It looks as though this will continue, as our first executive committee meeting was held virtually.

Our challenges for this year are several. For at least the first six months, we will conduct all meetings and activities virtually. Already the Borgess Marathon in May has been cancelled, and our section previously provided a water stop on the race. It is a challenge to have networking and socializing in this time of isolation and mask usage. I look for your suggestions to facilitate our activities. In addition, important committee chairs remain unfilled. The chair of the Education Committee, who oversees awards to teachers and students, administers a high school chemistry exam and conducts outreach to schools in Kalamazoo, Van Buren, and Allegan Counties, has been vacant for two years. Individuals have stepped up to keep most educational activities moving forward, but we need a greater commitment from our local section. We also have an opening for the chair of the Women Chemists' Committee. Please contact me if these two positions might be of interest to you.

Speaking of opportunities, I see many that lie ahead for us this year. We successfully conducted a Speed Networking event in which over 25 mentors and 25 students participated. We have been in touch with seven Michigan ACS Sections and have the opportunity to trade tips and possible seminars virtually. I attended the Fall 2020 ACS Meeting on-line and was impressed with the ease of participation and the quality of the talks. I expect no less from the Spring National Meeting. I encourage you to attend: The registration fee is \$99 for members, \$29 for students, and free for retirees and emeritus members. We have the opportunity to host speakers monthly via Zoom. A pilot meeting in the fall, a recognition event for Lydia Hines, proved quite successful in having the section participate virtually. Hopefully with vaccinations, mask wearing and social distancing, we will be able to return to some kind of normal in the fall. This could include Chemistry Week, Recycle a Poster, and other activities.

I am very excited about serving as your chair, and meeting new people. We will build on our section's past successes and have many positive moments to reflect on by the end of the year!

# Comments from our 2020 KACS Chair

By Hershel Jude

Dear Kalamazoo Area Chemists,

As a community we have been hearing about COVID-19 for a little over a year and it is quickly approaching one year since KACS held the only event in 2020 that was not in front of a screen. On March 10, a few days before COVID-19 resulted in restrictions being imposed on in-person gatherings, about 30 people gathered at Latitude 42 to celebrate the International Year of the Periodic Table and raise funds for Project SEED. Attendees were able to sample 6 different beers and appetizer pairings while Mike Babb discussed the rationale for the selections. I enjoyed the opportunity to share a beer and network with KACS members and could not have imagined what 2020 had in store for my year as KACS chair.

Things changed so quickly during the early days of the pandemic that one week after the IYPT event, March 17, we held our first virtual KACS executive committee meeting and every meeting since has been held virtually. Due to the pandemic all in-person events scheduled to occur after March 2020 were canceled, including Earth Day activities, the Kalamazoo Marathon water stop, the high school competitive exam and awards gathering, Project SEED, Chemistry Day at the Museum, Bell's recycle-a-poster and the college speed networking events.

While it was a very trying year, we adapted and modified activities where possible. We could not give our annual competitive high school chemistry test or invite the many deserving high school students and their families to attend an awards gathering and receive their prizes in 2020 due to the pandemic and school closures, however we were able to provide awards to outstanding high school and college chemistry students that were nominated by their teachers. Due to lack of education committee volunteers we likely would not have continued the 30-year tradition of giving the high school competitive exams in 2020 even if COVID-19 wasn't a reality. **If you are reading this article and have any interest in education and promoting chemistry to students in the Kalamazoo local section please contact our chair, Ed Thomas, and volunteer to help get KACS education program back on a strong foundation.**

Our traditional hands-on demos during Chemistry Day at the Museum for National Chemistry Week did not happen in person in October, but with the help of seven volunteers and Annette Hoppenworth at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum nine activities were videotaped and presented virtually. Through a "mystery-to-solve" format, which integrated the videotaped activities with museum displays, participants could "solve the mystery" and do hands-on science at home using the virtual demos as a guide.



Lydia E. M. Hines was awarded ACS' 2020 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach and on October 20, 2020 a virtual event was held in celebration. This event attracted 32 attendees and included six speakers and a keynote address by Lydia.

And finally, the college speed networking event did not happen in person, or even in 2020; but late is better than never as it was held virtually in January 2021, please see the write up in this newsletter by Luke Chadwick and Blakely Tresca.

2020, continued on page 6

# Greetings from the 2021 KACS Chair-elect



## AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

By Benjamin Maxey

I'm excited to be back with the Kalamazoo ACS section as your chair-elect! The new year kicked off quickly, with the ACS Leadership Institute starting on January 9. In a jam-packed week of virtual, half-day events we learned "What we need to know" about ACS and our new leadership roles, discussed a new ACS document under consideration regarding "Harassment-Free Meetings," were introduced to the ACS Board, reviewed how to maximize the value of social media platforms, and were teased with the many resources available to support local sections. I also joined a number of focused training sessions, including Engaging Volunteers, Leading without Authority, and Developing Communications Strategies. Phew! As I get reacquainted with the section, I am looking forward to leveraging these ACS resources to support our efforts!

### 2020, continued from page 5

It is difficult to summarize 2020 as Chair of the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society. In December 2019, I had aspirations of filling the education committee with dozens of volunteers and revamping the high school exam or at least giving students an option to take it. By March 2020, I remember thinking how do you have an executive council meeting that is not in person. By December, phrases like "zoom meeting," "teams meeting," and "meets meetings" are common language even if a lot of us still have problems making sure our cameras are on and our microphones aren't muted. So, in conclusion, pick up a beer or your favorite beverage and let's toast to being able to share a drink and memories in person without masks by the end of 2021!

## KACS Calendar 2021

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.

### February

- Feb. 15: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Feb. 22: KACS Meeting: Seminar by 2021 President H. N. Cheng, Ph.D., 6:30 p.m., contact Ed Thomas for link, RSVP requested
- **Abstract submission is now open for the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (Virtual) until March 1. Visit [www.glrn2021.org](http://www.glrn2021.org) for specifics**
- Registration for the ACS National Meeting (virtual) is now open; to register, and for other meeting details, visit [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html)

### March

- Mar. 15: Seminar by Dr. Kayunta Johnson-Winters, U of Texas at Arlington, 4 p.m. Title TBD. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88426148109?pwd=VWE1NldZQm43TWY3UzhhZGZHZ21qdz09> (ID: 884 2614 8109; passcode gfNC43)
- Mar. 15: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- The Competitive High School Chemistry Exam is **Cancelled**. Teachers will be contacted for student nominees and to plan Awards.
- Registration for the ACS National Meeting (virtual) is now open; to register, and for other meeting details, visit [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html)

### April

- Apr. 5: Virtual ACS National Meeting starts
- Apr. 18-24: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (Virtual). Topic: Reducing our Footprint with Chemistry
- Apr. 19: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Date TBA, last two weeks of April: Seminar Speaker, Zoom Meeting
- Date TBA: Cooperative meeting with Huron Valley Section



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## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
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### Past-Chair

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[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

### Chair-Elect

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
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### Secretary

Dr. James Redwine  
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### Treasurer

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
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### Councilor

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[lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)

### Alternate Councilor

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

## Sincere Thanks to Pfizer

By Lydia E.M. Hines  
Newsletter Editor

In this issue of *The KalChemist News* we want publicly to extend sincere **thanks to all involved with the development and the administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine!** I also want to take editor's prerogative to share with you a touching first-person account of the life-story of **Albert Bourla, DVM, Pfizer's CEO**, a Greek scientist of Jewish heritage. [www.greekreporter.com/2021/02/03/jews-parents-pfizer-ceo-albert-bourla-holocaust/](http://www.greekreporter.com/2021/02/03/jews-parents-pfizer-ceo-albert-bourla-holocaust/)



## Have you visited our Local Section website recently?

I hope you are aware that our local section KACS has maintained a website, [www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org), for several years, thanks to the expert help of our webmaster, Mark Wolfman, who graciously continues to update it even though he has been a member of a different Section, due to a residence move, for several years.

There you will find our KACS Vision and Mission Statements:

"We are a dynamic and visionary organization committed to improving people's lives in our community through the transforming power of chemistry. We strive to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren counties."

Along with a collection of our newsletters since 2003 it includes a large quantity of historical information under the "About Us" tab – there you will find our annual reports since 2010, lists of past chairs and award recipients, our Bylaws and information about how YOU may get involved with us in our programs, or offer to begin a new one – you may even find YOUR, or a friend's, name in one of the documents. Our Executive Committee is currently working on developing a new website and will be migrating a lot of that information to it, so "stay tuned."

WEBSITE, continued on page 6

## Extra Funds for KACS Local Sections in 2021



**By Doug Williams**  
**KACS Treasurer**

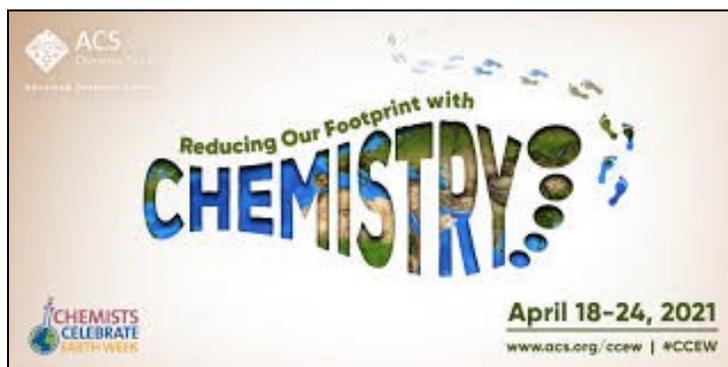
Challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic and its dramatic impacts on lives and economies has motivated the ACS Board of Directors to provide additional funding to local sections in 2021. These funds are intended to enhance local section efforts to help the Society achieve its mission and vision. Local sections have latitude to spend the funds in a manner consistent with their customary activities.

The Kalamazoo Local Section will receive an extra sum of about \$6,000. How do you think we should spend it? Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DFQHWJ> to submit ideas that you would like us to consider. Alternatively, you may email your ideas directly to me at [treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org). Please see our website at <https://kalamazooacs.org/> for more information about our current and recent programs.

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## Chemists Celebrate Earth Week: April 18-24

Through the annual Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) campaign from April 18-24 chemists around the world will be communicating Chemistry's value with information about "Reducing Our Footprint with Chemistry". Due to the continued challenges with COVID-19, the campaign will be fully digital, and ACS is having ZOOM meetings for interested members to learn how to plan Virtual Demo Events and other virtual opportunities for K-12 students as well as higher education and other adult audiences.



ACS is also encouraging local sections to amplify the campaign on social media using the hashtags #CCEW, #EarthDay2021, and #GreenChemistry and to add their virtual events to Facebook and submitting photos, videos, and screenshots to the CCEW 2021 Photo Album.

Local libraries, which have in past years been venues for distribution of relevant literature, are opening with limited opportunities; however, the city of Portage has invited us to participate in their Green-a-thon event on April 25, Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and our WMU ChemClub has agreed to staff one table to do demonstrations and to make available literature to the attendees.

If you want to get involved but don't have time to plan events, you can still spread the word via social media as mentioned above. Also, you may call Lydia E.M Hines who has on hand paper copies of this year's *Celebrating Chemistry*, as well as some knick knacks - like removable tattoos and stickers - which you may want to request for use with/distribution to friends and family members. She may be reached at 269-375-7349; the activities in those publications are fully vetted for safety and are aimed for use by young people in grades 4-6. If there is a "Little Library" in your neighborhood you may want to place copies of the publication there for folks to pick up and read/learn how to "reduce their footprint."

ACS continues to be very generous with its educational resources for teachers and parents; digital resources are available at [www.acs.org/ccew](http://www.acs.org/ccew)

# Our First-Ever ZOOM KACS Meeting—SUCCESS!

## *Featured KACS president H.N. Cheng*

H. N. Cheng, Ph.D., President of the American Chemical Society, addressed the Kalamazoo Section on February 22, highlighting “Sustainability and Green Chemistry.” Since the meeting was facilitated by Zoom, some members of the Huron Valley, Upper Peninsula and St. Joseph ACS local sections participated. H. N., as he likes to be called, presided over the

social portion of the meeting when we learned about his background and current USDA position in New Orleans. We also shared some Kalamazoo Chemistry stories and learned H. N. had worked with Kalsec to obtain rosemary extracts, a natural antioxidant.

After preliminaries, Ed Thomas, KACS Chair, introduced H. N. Cheng, Ph.D. (additional background information may be found on the ACS website, <https://www.acs.org/>). He noted the broad support for Green Chemistry. The U.S. House (2019) and Senate (2020) supported sustainability in chemistry. Also, major corporations have committed to this effort. P&G in 2018 and Unilever in 2020 announced their commitment to manufacturing in a recyclable and reusable manner. Dupont recently outlined their sustainability goals through 2030. Over 37 pharmaceutical companies published their guidelines on sustainability. ACS features a myriad of information related to green chemistry on its website, (<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/greenchemistry/industry-roundtables.html>). On the global stage, the U.N. in 2015, with 193 members participating adopted sustainability development goals. The ACS picked seven to focus on: zero hunger; good health & wellbeing; clean water & sanitation; affordable clean energy; industries, innovation & infrastructure; responsible consumption & production; and climate action (<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/sustainability/chemistry-sustainable-development-goals.html>).

After outlining broad support for sustainability, he focused on his own research and examples of Green Chemistry at the USDA. Most polyurethanes are produced from petrochemical sources. H.N. reacted isocyanates with sucrose in DMF to produce polyurethanes. The original experiments produced brittle plastics. By varying the modifiers, he was able to produce a product with better physical properties. Here a few examples of USDA research are cited. At the New Orleans site, they have investigated using rice batter to lower the oil content in fried food by 50%. At the Philadelphia site, researchers used chicken feathers to create mulching films for gardening that when decomposed at the end of a season add nitrogen back to the soil.



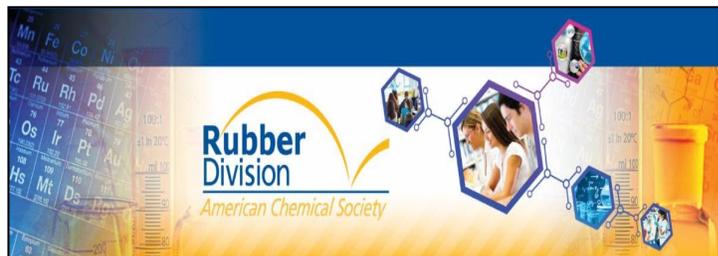
The screenshot shows a presentation slide with the ACS logo and the tagline "Chemistry for Life®". The slide title is "Growth, Collaboration & Advocacy". It lists several bullet points: Sustainability (with sub-bullets for Green Chemistry), Innovation, application R&D (with sub-bullets for Entrepreneurship, industrial engagement), International activities (with sub-bullets for Cooperation, coordination, communication), Collaboration, and Advocacy. An illustration shows four people assembling large puzzle pieces in green, orange, blue, and red. A text box at the bottom says "Let's work together to benefit the chemistry enterprise!". The American Chemical Society logo and the number 68 are at the bottom left and right respectively. A small video inset of H.N. Cheng is visible on the right side of the slide.



H. N. closed with a plug for ACS activities this year. The ACS Spring 2021 Meeting will be held virtually. Highlighted as a must attend is the Presidential Symposia featuring a presentation on “Sustainability: Advances and Applications. All those in attendance demonstrated their appreciation for the informative presentation with a warm Zoom clap of hands. We are very thankful to H. N. Cheng for kicking off our first 2021 members meeting. For additional events, please follow the KACS calendar found in the monthly newsletter or on our website.

## Rubber Division, ACS Technical Training & Scholarship Opportunities

Rubber Division, ACS offers a Rubber Technology Training Award for an individual already in the rubber industry seeking additional education and opportunities for advancement. The organization also has three \$5,000 undergraduate scholarships available for students who wish to pursue a degree in rubber technology, polymer science or the chemical profession. In addition, local Rubber Groups and industry companies recognize and support the need for financial assistance in obtaining a college degree. **The deadline has been extended to April 1!**

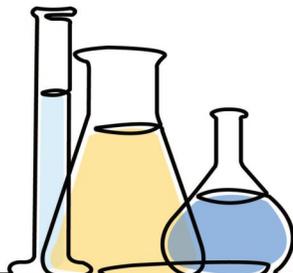


For more information visit

[www.rubber.org/student-scholarships](http://www.rubber.org/student-scholarships)

[www.rubber.org/rubber-technology-training-award](http://www.rubber.org/rubber-technology-training-award)

Or contact [amb@rubber.org](mailto:amb@rubber.org)



# 2021 SKILLS BEYOND THE BENCH



Register at  
<http://bit.ly/SBTB21>  
or using the QR code:



### BALANCING A SCIENTIFIC LIFE

March 5, 2021, 12-1:30  
**Micah Berry, PhD**  
Biofeedstocks Production Manager, Fuels & Product Strategy, Chevron  
**Jennifer Withington, MS**  
Academic Advisor, Clonlara School and Visiting Professor at Chamberlain College of Nursing

### GETTING YOUR GOALS WITH GRIT

March 12, 2021, 12-1:30  
**Sibrina Collins, PhD**  
Executive Director of the Marburger STEM Center, Lawrence Technological University

### REPRESENTATION IN CHEMISTRY

March 19, 2021, 12-1:30  
**Cory Valente, PhD**  
North America Inclusion, Diversity, & Employee Experience Leader, Dow

**Each week, workshop attendees will be entered in a raffle to win one of three books, which have been selected by the speakers and organizers!**

# The Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct

The American Chemical Society expects its members to adhere to the highest ethical and safety standards. Indeed, the Federal Charter of the Society (1937) explicitly lists among its objectives **“the improvement of the qualifications and usefulness of chemists through high standards of professional ethics, education and attainments...”**

To refresh our minds regarding standards of behavior which should guide us as chemists in our professional interactions, below is the text of the document which was approved by the ACS Council and the Board of Directors in 2019:

Chemical professionals should seek to advance chemical science while striving for the highest standards of scientific integrity. This includes sharing ideas and information, keeping accurate and complete records, and giving due credit to the contributions of others. Undisclosed conflicts of interest and scientific misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, are incompatible with this code.

Chemical professionals should be aware of laws and regulations related to the professional conduct of science to ensure that their profession is practiced safely and appropriately.

Chemical professionals should be actively concerned with the health and safety of co-workers, consumers, and the community. Professionals have a responsibility to serve the public interest and to further advance scientific knowledge. This includes ensuring that public comments are made with care and accuracy to avoid unsubstantiated, exaggerated, or premature statements.

Chemical professionals should treat others with respect and will not engage in discrimination, harassment, bullying, dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, coercive manipulation, censorship, or other misconduct. Such actions apply to all professional, research, and learning environments, regardless of whether or not the action alters the content, veracity, or meaning of research findings, and regardless of whether or not the action affects the planning, conduct, reporting, or application of science.

Chemical professionals should take responsibility to act or intercede where possible to prevent misconduct. This includes reporting suspected research misconduct, as well as any discrimination, harassment, bullying, dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, coercive manipulation, or censorship.

Chemical professionals should be mindful of Implicit Bias and Unconscious Bias and strive to avoid all bias based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, presence of disabilities, educational background, or other personal attributes.

Chemical professionals should strive to do their work in ways that are safe and sustainable for the environment. This includes continuing to work to develop sustainable products and processes that protect the health, safety, and prosperity of future generations.

Chemical professionals should serve clients faithfully and incorruptibly, respect confidentiality, advise honestly, and charge fairly. Additionally, they should promote and protect the legitimate interests of their employers, comply with safety policies and procedures, fulfill obligations, and safeguard proprietary and confidential business information.

Chemical professionals should strive for continual professional growth both personally and more broadly in the tutelage of others as a trust conferred by society. Professionals have a responsibility to understand limitations of their knowledge, remain current with developments in their field, learn with and encourage others.

\*This policy and its history, starting with “The Chemist’s Creed” first adopted in 1965, may be found at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/careers/career-services/ethics/the-chemical-professionals-code-of-conduct.html>

# KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.

## March

- Mar. 15: Seminar by Dr. Kayunta Johnson-Winters, U of Texas at Arlington, 4 p.m. Title TBD. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88426148109?pwd=VWE1NldZQm43TWY3UzhhZGZH21qdz09> (ID: 884 2614 8109; passcode gfNC43)
- Mar. 15: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Mar. 22: Seminar by Dr. James Salvador, General Motors. 4 p.m. Title: "Sulfide Solid State Electrolytes for Protected Li-metal Anode Batteries." Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82939294138?pwd=Q0VvOUN0VDFQVmMxL1JQSjFtMVk4UT09> (ID: 829 3929 4138; passcode: ks9Er8)
- The Competitive High School Chemistry Exam is **Cancelled**. Teachers to be contacted to solicit names of an outstanding chemistry student in each of our 35 KACS HS and our 2 post-HS 4-year institutions.
- Registration for the Spring National ACS meeting, with the theme *Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century* is now open. Complete information can be found at [www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html)
- Registration for the Great Lakes Regional Meeting (Virtual) is now open; information regarding cost and the seminars and other events planned may be found at [www.glr2021.org](http://www.glr2021.org)

## April

- Apr. 1: Deadline for applications for Rubber Division Scholarships (see related article on page 4)
- Apr. 5-16: ACS National Meeting (Virtual), theme: *Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century*
- Apr. 18-24: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (Virtual). Topic: "Reducing our Footprint with Chemistry," Celebrating Chemistry hands-on activity publications are available from Lydia E.M. Hines (see page 2)
- Apr. 19: Seminar by Dr. Vasileios Anagnostopoulos, University of Central Florida, 4 p.m., Title: "Geochemical controls of manganese oxides in the mobility of anionic contaminants in the environment: the case of iodine and technetium." Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81359137631?pwd=ZUFJL0FiYXYyVXpFRWUzSm1aHBCz09> (ID: 813 5913 7631; passcode: 9pG5q6)
- Apr. 19: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Apr. 25: Portage Green-a-Thon in area near City Hall on South Westnedge, 11 a.m.—3 p.m.
- Date TBA: Cooperative meeting with Huron Valley Section (Careers)

## May

- May 17: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Borgess Marathon Run—KACS water station—**Cancelled**
- Recognition/Awards gathering for Members and Students tentative, Zoom Meeting

## WEBSITE, continued from page 1

If you are so inclined, now is a good opportunity to help update our section's historical narrative! Archival information is housed at the WMU Zhang Archive Collection on Oakland Drive – There should be Minutes and newsletters for those 40 years to help jog a volunteer's memory!



Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society

We are a dynamic and visionary organization committed to improving people's lives in our community through the transforming power of chemistry. We strive to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren counties.

ACS  
Chemistry for Life™

Home Events Newsletters About Us Student Chapters Contact Us

January 2021 KalChemist News

Highlights:

- KACS Named ChemLuminary Award Finalist
- An update for 2021 on Project SEED
- 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting Information
- Call for Award Nominations GLRM 2021
- Executive committee greetings



# The KalChemist News

April 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 4

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Survey Reminder**  
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- April, May, June Calendar**  
Page 4

## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude  
[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

### Chair-Elect

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
[benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)

### Secretary

Dr. James Redwine  
[jredwine@kalsec.com](mailto:jredwine@kalsec.com)

### Treasurer

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
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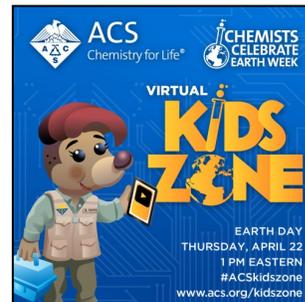
## ACS offering Kids Zone; register by April 16

In celebration of Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, a virtual chemistry outreach event will be offered from 1-2 p.m. EDT.

The Kids Zone is for young people ages 10-13 to explore how the chemistry of very big molecules can help understand, solve, and prevent environmental problems.

It will be hosted by The ACS Committee on Community Activities and President H.N. Cheng.

Registration deadline is **April 16**; so register now at [www.acs.org/kidszone](http://www.acs.org/kidszone).



## Project SEED 2021—Applications Wanted

### By Doug Williams

#### KACS Project SEED Coordinator

In our February issue of *The KalChemist News* we explained that ACS will offer an expanded Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp in 2021. On March 22, the student application portal opened.

#### Applications must be submitted by

**April 26, with parent consent due by April 30.** Students can find all the information necessary for the application at [www.acs.org/projectseed](http://www.acs.org/projectseed). If you know of a worthy student, please send them to the website and urge them to read all the information before beginning the application (please do not only send them the link to the application). The website contains a list of information and documentation they will need to include.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me ([dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)) or to the ACS Project SEED office:

American Chemical Society  
Education Division, Student Experiences

1155 16th St., NW | Washington DC 20036

T: 202.872.4380 | F: 202.872.4361

E: [projectseed@acs.org](mailto:projectseed@acs.org) | [www.acs.org/projectseed](http://www.acs.org/projectseed)



## Great Lakes Regional Meeting Program Highlight/Invitation: “Reflections of Senior Chemists”

A **Senior Chemists’ Virtual Coffee morning discussion, “Reflections of Senior Chemists,”** will take place at the 2021 GLRM on **Monday, June 7, from 10-11:30 a.m.** Lynn Hartshorn, retired from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, is organizing the event.

All seniors are welcome, even if you are not registered. For “drop in” instructions, contact Lynn Hartshorn ([lghartshorn@stthomas.edu](mailto:lghartshorn@stthomas.edu)).

Lynn Hartshorn, editor of the (National) ACS Senior Chemists’ Committee Newsletter for several years, will introduce the discussion and talk briefly about

the amazingly wide variety of activities that retired and senior chemists do.

After this, participants are welcome to give 5-minute descriptions of their retirement activities and involvements.

There will be door prizes (supplied by the Minnesota Section).



**Please join us!**

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## Children Learn about Germs, Disease Prevention and More

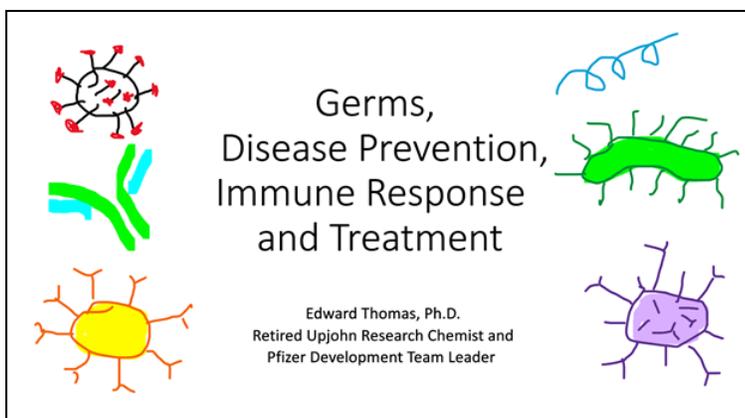
Edward W. Thomas, Ph.D., a retired Upjohn research chemist and Pfizer development team leader, spoke virtually to two groups of Kalamazoo Public School Students during the month of March. Susan Jude, spouse of past KACS chair, Hershel Jude, Ph.D., assisted in the presentation for the seventh graders.

Dr. Thomas’ presentation entitled “Germs, Disease Prevention, Immune Response and Treatment” was well received by Ms. Nancy Klee’s fourth grade classes and Mr. Kevin Koch’s seventh grade classes. In twelve slides, he explained what a germ is and how children can prevent diseases. He then explained how the body defends itself if infected. He also discussed how Pfizer vaccines are made in Andover, MA, and Portage, MI, and how vaccines work in the body. Ed also suggested additional reading about vaccines and Dr. Jonas Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine.

The talk elicited many questions from the fourth graders. “Do you have to take the vaccine every year? Do the people who have had the virus need to be vaccinated? Can kids get the vaccine? Why can’t kids get the vaccine? What is polio? Can animals catch COVID?” They also expressed what they liked or learned: how vaccines are made, the immune cycle, the egg part (eggs have been used to make the flu vaccine) and how vaccines work.

Questions from the seventh graders included, “Can a third vaccination give you 100% protection? What happens if you have COVID-19 and you are vaccinated? Can the innate immune system fight off COVID? Why do some people get sick with COVID, and others don’t? Can we get rid of COVID? When can we go back to school?” All these excellent questions were answered honestly - some answers we just don’t have yet! After each presentation, the students “snapped their fingers” in appreciation.

For further information, or to request a presentation to fourth through eighth grade students, contact Ed Thomas, [edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com).



# American Chemical Society Virtual Council Meeting Highlights

Lydia Hines

KACS Councilor

## Election Results

### Candidates for President-Elect, 2022

- By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Judith C. Giordan** and **John C. Warner** as **candidates for 2022 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

### Candidates for District V (KACS is in this District)

- **Lisa Balbes** and **Joseph A. Heppert** were selected as **District V candidates**. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District V around October 1, 2021. (Please ascertain that National ACS has your correct e-address.)

## Other Council Actions

### Committee on Committees Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms*, as amended.
  - This petition places all committees in one category called “Society Committees” – eliminating the several different types of committees.
  - The years of service and the number of committee members on each Society Committee would now be consistent and would match the present terms of the Elected Committees: three-year terms with a two-term maximum for committee members.
  - Certain (6) Society Committees will no longer have the “Councilor only” designation, allowing an individual to join and continue service on a committee regardless of their status as a Councilor.
  - The Committee on Committees amended the petition prior to bringing it to Council, in response to several committees’ concerns, to include the **bolded** phrase:

- The terms for a member of a Society Committee shall be three calendar years. A member of a Society Committee shall be eligible to serve two successive three-year terms on the same committee, **however, that service could be extended if the appointing officer(s) determines that there is a compelling need for ongoing expertise on the committee.**
- The Petition will become effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors, however, existing committee assignments will be start a transition to the term limits on January 1, 2022.

### Committee on Local Section Activities Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities*.
  - This petition provides the Committee on Local Section Activities with the authority to support Local Sections by taking action on their behalf, including appointing an interim executive committee and/or facilitating a Local Section’s election when there is a lapse in the local section’s leadership.

### Committee on Membership Affairs

- The Council approved the 2022 Schedule of Membership.
  - The Schedule **reduces the base dues rate to \$160 per year**
  - It **establishes various dues categories and benefits packages** based upon career stages, role in the chemical enterprise, and desired level of interaction by the Member with the Society.

### Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits input regarding qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors, for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to [nomelect@acs.org](mailto:nomelect@acs.org).

# Extra Funds for KACS—Survey Reminder

By Doug Williams  
KACS Treasurer



Did I mention money? In March's newsletter, I wrote that ACS is giving us an extra \$6,000 to spend on local section activities with particular emphasis on challenges

that stem from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for your ideas about how to spend it. Thank you to those who have already responded. You are few but mighty. What about the rest of you?!?!

Please submit your thoughts at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DFQHWJ> or email yours directly to [treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org). Please see our website at <https://kalamazooacs.org/> for more information about our current and recent programs.

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## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.

### April

- Apr. 5-16: ACS National Meeting (Virtual), theme: *Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century*. Registrants will be able to participate in **4,000 hours of live oral technical presentations and poster presentations**, participate in **virtual networking events**, and discover various ACS Engagement Events taking place in conjunction with the ACS Spring 2021 meeting. Visit <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings.html> to register and find the latest information. Select sessions will be available on demand for two weeks after the meeting.
- Apr. 5: Registration is now open for the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting. Visit <https://cvent.me/rqQ4xV>. \$25 until May 3; \$30 after May 3.
- Apr. 16: **Deadline for registration** for free online event Kids Zone in-home activities on April 22. This is a virtual in-home chemistry outreach event hosted by The ACS Committee on Community Activities and President H. N. Cheng in celebration of Earth Day, for young people ages 10-13 to explore how the chemistry of very big molecules can help understand, solve, and prevent environmental problems. **Register now** at [www.acs.org/kidszone](http://www.acs.org/kidszone).
- Apr. 18-24: Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (Virtual). Topic: "Reducing our Footprint with Chemistry," *Celebrating Chemistry* hands-on activity publications are available from Lydia E.M. Hines (269-375-7349).
- Apr. 19: Seminar by Dr. Vasileios Anagnostopoulos, University of Central Florida, 4 p.m., Title: "Geochemical controls of manganese oxides in the mobility of anionic contaminants in the environment: the case of iodine and technetium." Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81359137631?pwd=ZUFJL0FiYXYyVXpFRWUzSm1laHBCZz09> (ID: 813 5913 7631; passcode: 9pG5q6)
- Apr. 19: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Apr. 25: Portage Green-a-Thon in area near City Hall on South Westnedge, 11 a.m.—3 p.m.

### May

- May 10: Recognition/Awards Gathering for Members and Students, 7 p.m., contact Ed Thomas ([edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)) for details on joining this Zoom meeting.
- May 17: KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Borgess Marathon Run—KACS water station—**Cancelled**

### June

- June 6-9, 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (virtual). Hosted by Minnesota Section. Title: "Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry." Registration is open at <https://cvent.me/rqQ4xV>. Cost is \$30—visit [www.glrn2021.org](http://www.glrn2021.org) for the full program!
- June 21: KACS Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- Project SEED, will be virtual



# The KalChemist News

May 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 5

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## 2021 KACS

### Executive Officers

#### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas

[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

#### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude

[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

#### Chair-Elect

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey

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#### Secretary

Dr. James Redwine

[jredwine@kalsec.com](mailto:jredwine@kalsec.com)

#### Treasurer

Dr. P. Douglas Williams

[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

#### Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines

[lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)

#### Alternate Councilor

Dr. P. Douglas Williams

[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

## Annual Awards Gathering held



On **Monday, May 10 at 7 p.m.** we were delighted to have students, teachers and long-term ACS members join us **via ZOOM** for our annual Awards Gathering.

Despite the difficulties experienced during the pandemic, faculty in our local educational institutions were pleased to recognize an outstanding HS Chemistry student (each of the 35 HS Chemistry teachers in our KACS area was invited to nominate one outstanding student), an outstanding graduating senior from each of our two 4-year colleges, and as a section we were happy to recognize 8 long-term ACS members!

It was a distinct pleasure to honor all these individuals: to be inspired from our seasoned chemists' experiences, and to hear from our younger awardees about future plans in their journeys forward.

We thank the following members for their contributions to our profession over the years:

- 50-year ACS members **Richard Davison** and **Alexander Hanchar**
- 60-year ACS members **David Duchamp**, **Marvin Grostic**, **Gene Heasley**, **Edward Hessler**, **Frederick Kauffman** and **Steve Miszak**

And we offer our heartfelt

congratulations and best wishes to the following students as they continue in their chosen future undertakings:

- Kalamazoo College: **Subi Thakali**
- Western Michigan University: **Jamin Willoughby**
- Gull Lake HS (Peter SantaMaria): **Kara Wesley**
- Hackett Catholic Prep (Amy Johnston): **Alex Goscenski**
- KAMSC (Claudia Witt-Thomas): **Samuel Rabick**
- Kalamazoo Christian HS (Al Nieboer): **Evan Triemstra**
- Portage Central HS (Jon Taylor): **Liam Roehr**
- Portage Northern HS (Michelle Mason): **Courtney Lennon**

Just to give you a sense of how rewarding a career can be when you **commit to do well in what you find interesting**, below is a short description given by a recent retiree:

"I am grateful that a love of chemistry turned into a rewarding, challenging career. There wasn't a plan; I just **did things I found interesting and challenging**. It is what got me to graduate school, into the research group I joined, and what I was able to do during my career. I am grateful for all the wonderful people I got to work with, and that my workplace provided me the flexibility to volunteer with the ACS. It is something I will continue."

## WMU Chemistry Club Honors Graduating Seniors

We are pleased to announce the graduation of the following WMU senior chemistry and related-field majors, whom the WMU Chemistry Club has recognized for their service.

Each of the students has received an ACS Graduation Cord through funds provided by KACS.



Jerome Davis  
Doug Johnson  
Lindsey Parish

Lauren Donnellon  
Makenzie Kuhns  
Andrew Simpkins

The following graduates kindly sent us additional information about themselves:

- Jerome (Warren, MI–Cousino High School) plans to **work in industry** after graduation. His favorite chemistry class at WMU was Organic Chemistry 1. He especially enjoyed participating in the intercollegiate “Battle of the Chemistry Clubs,” sponsored by Michigan State. Jerome adds, “There were about 10 chem clubs from different colleges there. It was a good bonding experience for us and a great way to socialize with others in similar situations.....The day was rigged though, there’s no way we shouldn’t have been in the top 3 with our collective scores and the way we competed.”
- Makenzie (Niles, MI–Niles High School) plans to return to the classroom as a **high school chemistry teacher**. Her favorite WMU chemistry classes were

Organic Chemistry (1 & 2). She also enjoyed the Battle of the Chemistry Clubs and told us, “This was the first time I really enjoyed chemistry and was able to get to know the other chemistry club members. My friend and I participated in the event ‘weighted questions’ where they set up an obstacle course. I needed to lead her through blindfolded and answer questions about molecular masses. It was chaotic and a HUGE fail. At the end they gave awards for various categories. One of the categories was ‘Worst at Weighted Questions.’ As a competitive person, I have never cheered more to lose in that category. Overall, it was the highlight of my chemistry experience in college.”

- Andrew (Michigan Center, MI–Michigan Center High School) plans to **work in industry** after graduation. His favorite chemistry class at WMU was Organic Chemistry 2. Andrew remembers his participation in the ‘STEAM project’ and added, “We used a mass spectrometer to determine what was in our sample, and then watched artists turn our results into art/music. It showed me that chemistry can be used for more than just mixing things together and seeing what happens!”

KACS appreciates our longstanding collaboration with the WMU Chemistry Club. We wish these graduates success in their future endeavors. Congratulations!

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## Free “Chemical Safety and Risk Management” Course Offered

The ACS Office of Safety Programs is offering a “Foundations of Chemical Safety and Risk Management” **free online course that's open to all**. The target audience is undergraduate chemistry students who have completed two semesters of general chemistry and one semester of organic chemistry, but anyone who wants to increase their knowledge about risk-based chemical safety can sign up.

The course incorporates learning objectives from the "Guidelines for Chemical Laboratory Safety" published by the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) and the ACS Committee on Professional Training (CPT), and is based on the principles of RAMP: **R**ecognize hazards, **A**ssess the risks from the hazards, **M**inimize and manage the risks, and **P**repare for the unexpected and emergencies.

The **self-paced course includes 17 units and takes approximately 15**

**hours to complete**. Participants will learn the components of a strong safety culture, how to recognize hazards in the laboratory, methods to minimize hazards and risks, processes needed to plan for emergencies, and how to apply the principles of RAMP to laboratory operations. Attendees will receive a certificate. For complete course details and online enrollment, visit the [Safety Programs](https://www.acs.org/safety) website, or email [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org).

# WMU Chemistry Club Virtual Visits Across Michigan

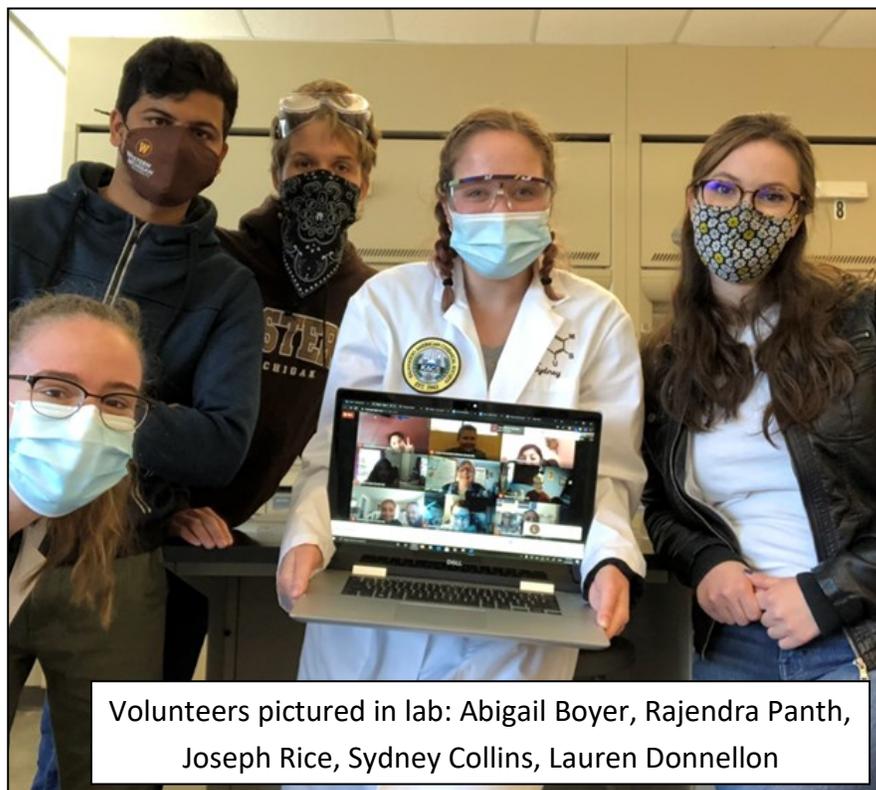
By Sydney Collins

*WMU Chemistry Club President*

This semester, Western Michigan University's Chemistry Club has dedicated a great deal of their time to visiting with classrooms across Michigan to perform chemistry experiments. Under normal circumstances, we would have been able to participate in more in-person activities within school districts in the Kalamazoo Area; but as we all know, this hasn't been possible due to the pandemic. Fortunately, video chat opens a whole new world of possibilities and we were able to organize five separate visits with educators all over Michigan. These visits all lasted a full hour and each involved five different experiments. Our first visit was with Mrs. Randolph's third grade classroom from Thomas Edison Elementary, Port Huron; followed

by a visit with Mrs. Norland's kindergarten classroom from Dawson Elementary, Allegan. Next, we had two separate visits with Mrs. Scott's fourth-grade science classrooms from Milwood Elementary School, Kalamazoo. Finally, we visited with Mrs. Cronce's and Mrs. Meyer's first-grade classrooms from Thomas Edison Elementary, Port Huron.

The activities performed during these visits were chosen based on grade-level, but they included the acetone and styrofoam experiment, elephant toothpaste, the rising-water pressure experiment, the can-implosion experiment, and two different dry ice experiments dealing with dish soap bubbles. Through the demonstration of these experiments, we were able to cover topics such as states of matter, chemical and physical changes, elements in nature, catalysts, pressure and temperature relationships, and heat and energy in reactions. These are very big topics for such young students; however, with the help of these visuals along with age-appropriate explanations, we were able to help these young chemists get a grasp on some of these advanced concepts.



Volunteers pictured in lab: Abigail Boyer, Rajendra Panth, Joseph Rice, Sydney Collins, Lauren Donnellon



"Elephant Toothpaste"

At the end of each visit, we asked the students questions to quiz them on how much they remembered. Most remembered a great deal of the material, and some even asked questions that were so advanced that they almost stumped our volunteers. It was incredible to watch them be challenged by the material we were teaching them, and some of the students even wrote us letters to thank us. Overall, these visits were incredible to take part in, and we as a club have felt that we have still been able to reach a large population of students during this pandemic in order to show them how much fun chemistry can be. It just goes to show that even during a pandemic, anything is possible!

# Chemistry Club represents KACS at Portage Green-a-Thon

By Sydney Collins

*WMU Chemistry Club President*

Our club also represented the KACS at the Portage Green-a-thon on Sunday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our 2-volunteer shifts presented the visitors with printed publications filled with take-home activities which encouraged sustainable behavior; we also offered hands-on opportunities to make Green Slime and to make individualized UV-light sensitive bracelets from rubberized string and beads. Though it was a chilly day, the sun did shine and that made the bracelets a “hit” take-home treat as they showed the color-change (from white to varied colors) in real time. The attendance turnout was respectable for the weather, with children ages 3-12 years old and their parents participating.



Jerome Davis introduces youngsters to chemistry.

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## KACS Implements Volunteer / Meeting Conduct Policy

The national ACS has a “Volunteer / Meeting Conduct Policy” for its events and suggests implementing one for its local sections. **The Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society (KACS) Executive Committee reviewed and revised the national policy for its members and endorsed the following on April 19, 2021.**

Edward W. Thomas, Ph.D., KACS Chair

### **KALAMAZOO SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (KACS)**

#### **Policies**

One of the key strengths of the ACS has been the enduring and varied contributions made by its thousands of dedicated volunteers.

Another unassailable strength of the ACS is its outstanding meetings program. ACS meetings are among the most respected scientific meetings in the world. ACS meetings offer scientific professionals a legitimate platform to present, publish, discuss, and exhibit the most exciting research discoveries technologies in chemistry and its related disciplines. Furthermore, ACS meetings facilitate networking opportunities, career development, and placement, and provide organizations with opportunities to exhibit products and services to targeted audiences.

The Society’s Congressional Charter explicitly lists among its objectives “the improvement of the qualifications and usefulness of chemists through high standards of professional ethics, education, and attainments....” The ACS expects its volunteers and meeting attendees to

display the highest qualities of personal and professional integrity in all aspects of their ACS related activities. Indeed, every chemical professional has obligations to the public, to volunteer and staff colleagues, and to science.

#### **Volunteer / KACS Meeting Attendee Conduct Policy\***

To foster a positive environment built upon a foundation of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior, this Volunteer and Meeting Attendee Policy applies to KACS Volunteers, individuals conducting the business and affairs of the KACS, and to attendees at KACS meetings. Specifically:

1. Volunteers and KACS meeting attendees should interact with others in a cooperative and respectful manner and should contribute to a collegial, inclusive, positive, and respectful environment for their fellow volunteers and attendees, as well as for other stakeholders, including meeting vendors and KACS Executive Committee Members.
2. Volunteers and meeting attendees must avoid taking any inappropriate actions based on race, gender, age,

religion, ethnicity, nationality, sex orientation, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, presence of disabilities, or educational background. They should show consistent respect to colleagues, regardless of the level of their formal education and whether they are from industry, government or academia, or other scientific and engineering disciplines.



3. Volunteers and meeting attendees should refrain from using insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language in their KACS interactions. Disruptive, harassing, or inappropriate behavior toward other volunteers, stakeholders, or staff is unacceptable. Personal boundaries set by others must be observed. Harassment of any kind, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment will not be tolerated.

4. Volunteers and meeting attendees should call 911 or on-site security when they reasonably believe they or someone else is in immediate danger.

5. Volunteers and meeting attendees should obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant governmental authority while meeting at federally-funded institutions (e.g., schools, colleges, and universities), including but not limited to adhering to the policies and practices required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

6. Volunteer and meeting attendees alike should ensure that they comply with all applicable safety guidelines relating to public chemistry demonstrations.

7. Volunteers and meeting attendees should only use ACS's trademarks, insignia, name, logos, and other intellectual property in compliance with ACS regulations and directives as may be issued from time to time.

8. The capturing of images or recordings, including, but not limited to, photographs, video, or audio recording in various forms and media, downloading, or rebroadcasting of technical session (oral or poster) speakers or presentations is strictly prohibited unless otherwise approved in advance by an KACS Executive Committee Member.

### **KACS Presenter Conduct Policy\***

To foster a positive environment built upon a foundation of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior, this Presenter Attendee Policy applies to each

presenter of any technical session, oral or poster. Each presenter shall ensure:

1. That nothing in their presentation is defamatory, libelous, or otherwise unlawful, violates any right of privacy, or infringes any duty of confidentiality owed to another party or violates any contract, express or implied.

2. Their presentation is the original work of the presenter and any contributors who have been involved in such research or preparation have been appropriately identified.

3. Any third-party quotations or figures have been appropriately noted, and in the case of illustrations in particular, permission for their use has been obtained.

4. All institutional approvals and protocols have been obtained and followed in conjunction with the research and the preparation of the presentation. Similarly, any related requirements of relevant research funding agencies have been followed. Any funding agencies providing support for the underlying research have been identified.

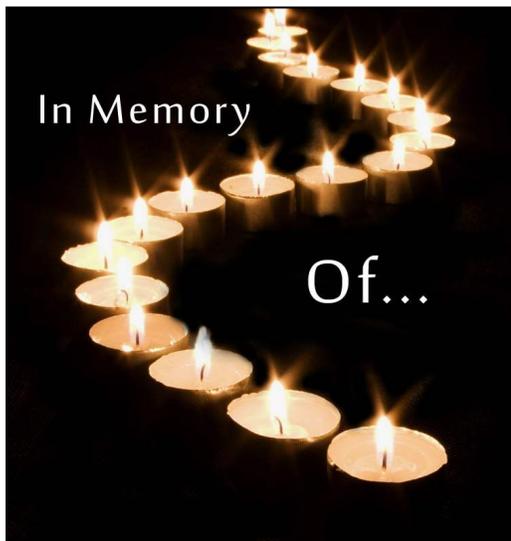
5. Any unusual hazards inherent in the chemicals, equipment or procedures used in the underlying research as described in the presentation are clearly identified.

Violations of these Conduct Policies should be reported promptly to the KACS Executive Committee (<https://www.kalamazooacs.org/about/officers.html>). In cases of alleged persistent and/or serious violations of this Conduct Policy, the Executive Committee shall review the evidence, employ fairness principles that consider the rights of all involved, find facts, arrive at a decision, and take such actions as may be appropriate, including but not limited to requiring volunteers to leave their volunteer position(s); precluding volunteers from serving in section volunteer roles in the future; requiring meeting attendees to leave the meeting; and, precluding meeting attendees from attending future KACS meetings. KACS, through its Executive Committee, reserves the right to pursue additional measures as it may determine are appropriate.

The KACS Executive Committee approved these Policies on April 19, 2021.

\* This document is derived from the ACS "Volunteer / National Meeting Attendee Conduct Policy"

## Iffland, Past Chair and Member for Nearly Eight Decades, Dies at 99



A **79-year ACS member** and past chair of the Chemistry Department at WMU, Dr. Donald C. Iffland, 99, died on Dec. 15, 2020; he served as our KACS chair in 1967 (our section's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) and 1968. In our November 2020 newsletter Lydia sent him a Birthday Greeting on behalf of the KACS for his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 26, and he responded with an *e-mail* of appreciation. His obituary may be read at <https://kalamazooacs.org/about/memorials.html>.



## Job Opportunities



**Bridge Organics** is looking to hire synthetic organic chemists at its site in Vicksburg. Please see the careers section of their website ([www.bridgeorganics.com](http://www.bridgeorganics.com)) if you are interested.

## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.**

### June

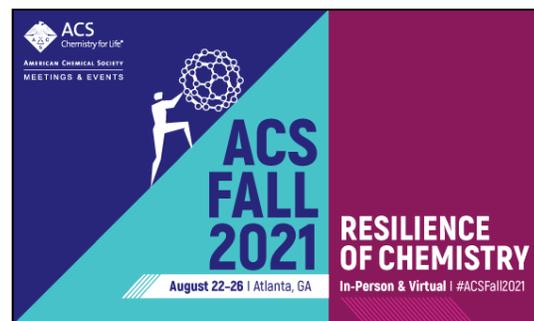
- June 6-9, 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting (virtual). Hosted by Minnesota Section. Title: "Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry." **Registration is open at <https://cvent.me/rqQ4xV>.** Cost is \$30—visit [www.glr2021.org](http://www.glr2021.org) for the full program! **Undergraduate students may join ACS for FREE during GLRM registration.** Experience ACS membership for the first time. Join and download the 2021 ACS Handbook to learn more about membership benefits.
- June 21: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- Project SEED will be virtual

### July

- Project SEED will be virtual
- NO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### August

- August 16 KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- August 22-26 National ACS Meeting (planned as "Hybrid" – virtual + in-person) in Atlanta, GA



**Be alert for a future presentation on the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine!**



# The KalChemist News

June 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 6

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## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude  
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### Chair-Elect

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
[benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)

### Secretary

Dr. James Redwine  
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### Treasurer

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

### Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines  
[lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)

### Alternate Councilor

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

## Past KACS Chair Eklov named Kalexsyn CEO

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—(BUSINESS WIRE) —Kalexsyn Inc. (Kalexsyn), a world-class CRO and CDMO providing chemistry services to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, announces that its Board of Directors appointed Brian Eklov to succeed Robert Gadwood, who is retiring, as Chief Executive Officer and Board member.

The CEO appointment was effective on May 18. Brian Eklov will focus on Kalexsyn's sustainable growth, leveraging competencies and operational efficiency within the Dipharma Group, which acquired Kalexsyn in 2018 through its American subsidiary Dipharma, Inc.

In 2003, Robert Gadwood and David Zimmerman founded Kalexsyn and over the years the Company has become a world-class Contract Research Organization (CRO), providing innovative chemistry services to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. After the acquisition of the Company by the Dipharma Group, Robert Gadwood has continued to lead the Company.

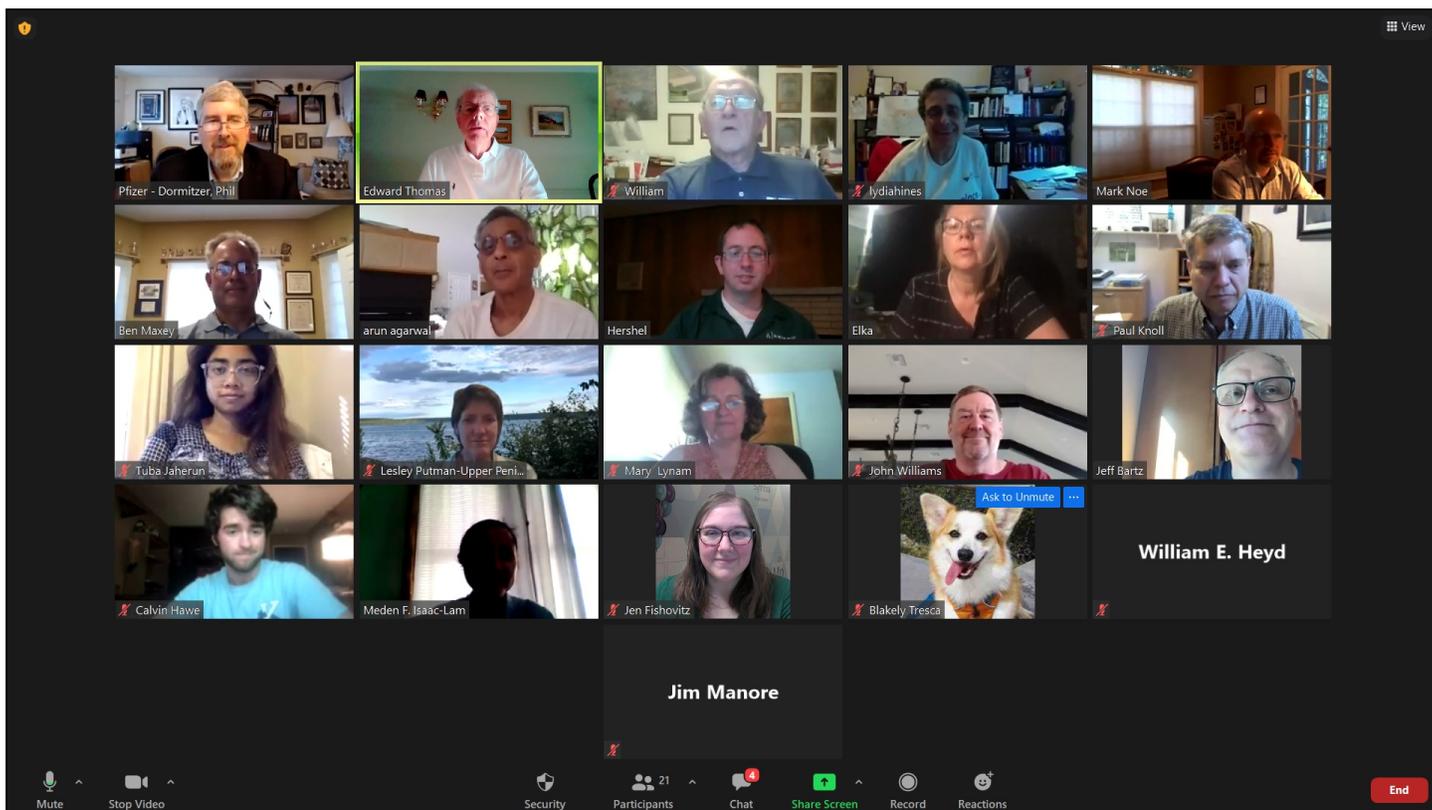
"We are delighted to have Brian as Kalexsyn's next CEO," said Jorge Nogueira, Chairman of Kalexsyn's Board of Directors and CEO of Dipharma Francis. "He has deep knowledge of the industry dynamics and has been an outstanding R&D director at Kalexsyn since 2016. With his commitment and determination, we will continue optimizing Dipharma's value proposition to reinforce our presence in the U.S. Market, expanding the range of services offered to our customers, from discovery research through commercialization."

Eklov joined the company as a research scientist in 2007 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Illinois, where he trained in synthetic organic chemistry. Brian became Associate Director of Chemistry at Kalexsyn in 2012 and then Director of Chemistry in 2016 and is an active participant in governance of the American Chemical Society.



**Dr. Brian Eklov**

Credit: Kalexsyn /  
Photographer:  
Erin Sutherland Photography



## KACS Views ‘Mission Possible’: The Race for a Vaccine’

By Ed Thomas  
KACS Chair

The documentary, “Mission Possible: The Race for a Vaccine” prepared by Pfizer in conjunction with the National Geographic Society, was viewed by the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society on June 10. More than 35 members from Kalamazoo and the invited St. Joe Valley, Huron Valley and Upper Peninsula local sections attended the ZOOM meeting.

The documentary covered Pfizer’s initial reaction to the need for a COVID-19 vaccine, the FDA experimental approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on December 11, 2020, to the first dose in a patient residing in the U.K. Following the video, two Pfizer scientists, Phil Dormitzer (Chief Scientific Officer for Viral and RNA Vaccines, based in Pearl River, NY) and Mark Noe (Vice President, Discovery Sciences, based in Groton, CT), joined us for questions and answers. Then Ben Maxey (Senior Manager/Technical Leader Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Compliance, based in Portage, MI) and Chair-elect of Kalamazoo ACS, outlined the final process of vaccine formulation, sterile packaging and very-low-temperature storage for shipping to patients.

All the participants greatly appreciated the time and expertise shared by the Pfizer presenters. We are fortunate to be beneficiaries of their hard work and success.





## Eleven Graduates Complete Certified Chemistry Curriculum

By Lydia E. M. Hines

In our May issue of [The KalChemist News](#)

a) we congratulated the two 50-year and five 60-year members of our Section; KACS Chair Ed Thomas and Councilor Lydia Hines spent a delightful afternoon on May 27 delivering certificates to a majority of them; it was a pleasure to have each so eager to bring us up to date on their current activities and life events!

b) We also extended congratulations to outstanding HS and College students and to WMU ChemClub members who graduated with degrees in Chemistry.

In this June issue we would like to continue our congratulatory theme to 8 students at Kalamazoo College and 3 at Western Michigan University who, in 2021, completed the ACS-certified chemistry curriculum; each of these graduates received an invitation from ACS to apply for a **free 3-year membership** upon graduation!

### Kalamazoo College

Alexandro R. Cruz

Jennalise K. Ellis

Camden W. Gardner

Avika Jayatilaka

Elayna R. Moreau

Priya A. Pokorzynski

Angela Ruiz

Subi Thakali

### Western Michigan University

Sakinah binte Omar Alkhatib

Scott MacFarlane

Calden Somers

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## 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting an Amazing Success

The Virtual **2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting**, which was hosted by the Minnesota Section of the ACS and took place from June 6 to June 9, was an amazing success!

With 625 registrants and several keynote speakers, along with “Lunch and Learn” options on a variety of topics not usually emphasized in one’s academic experience (e.g. patent information, entrepreneurial

opportunities, small business development, applying to grad school, opportunities available at, and networking with faculty at, Liberal Arts Colleges (MACTLAC), etc.) the days were “Virtually” full!

There also were Award ceremonies, and at one of them the newly-elected VP of the WMU ChemClub, **John C. Getson**, was recognized for his poster/flash presentation in the Medicinal Chemistry area!

**GLRM 2021**

Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry

**JUNE 6-9 | VIRTUAL**

Hosted by the Minnesota Local Section

ACS  
Chemistry for Life  
MEETINGS & EVENTS

# Career News and Information from ACS

By Lydia E. M. Hines  
Counselor

The American Chemical Society (ACS) website is replete with information on the many careers as well as with all types of employment assistance information that ACS offers — some exclusively to those who are members, but also to others, if an individual is indeed interested and takes some initiative.

## For Members

ACS takes a very proactive and **generous approach** to helping its **members** with their career aspirations; one of these opportunities may be found in the following item which describes the offer of **weekly Virtual Office Hours with ACS Career Consultants every Thursday at Noon!**

“Advance your career on the fly! Join an upcoming [Virtual Office Hours with ACS Career Consultants](#), every Thursday at Noon ET, for casual small-group networking with fellow ACS members and convenient career advice. [Register for free](#) to receive personalized answers about resume writing, video interviewing, optimizing your LinkedIn profile, and more”

## Open to All

Given that schools are out, please encourage any young person you may know who may be interested in “chemistry” as a career to take a look at the many and varied opportunities that are available and may be found on the ACS website at [www.acs.org/careers](http://www.acs.org/careers)

Examples are:

### **Discover Your Options with Careers & the Chemical Sciences**

Whether you're just starting your career or planning a career transition, our free Virtual Classroom on June 30, "[Non-Traditional Careers for](#)



[Chemists,](#)" will help you make informed decisions about what career paths to explore and identify positions that match your needs. Learn about careers in chemical information, patent work, technical writing, education, human resources, sales and marketing, and much more.

Register now for the upcoming online [Virtual Classrooms](#), where you'll learn live from skilled experts, helping you achieve your career goals and get the boost you need to succeed.

Visit the [ACS Virtual Classrooms](#) home page to see all the upcoming sessions, and register today!

### **Navigate Your Career with ACS Career Pathways Workshops**

[ACS Career Pathways™](#) is a series of expertly designed, live, online workshops crafted specifically to provide career guidance to both up-and-coming and experienced professionals in the chemical sciences in navigating their futures. Choose from topics like “Résumé Development” and "Making the Most of Your Interview" to "Careers in Industrial Chemistry" and "Finding Yourself: Identifying a Career that Matches Your Strengths and Values," and more! **Career Pathways Workshops are FREE to ACS members**

### **Career Perspectives: Tips for Finding a Mentor at Work**

Joe Martino, an ACS Career Consultant, [focuses on mentors](#). He explains how they can help advance your career, and what to consider as you evaluate potential mentors.

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## Job Opportunities



Kalsec has several new opportunities available at its Kalamazoo, Michigan location. Kalsec is looking for Chemists, Chemical Engineers, and Food Scientists. Visit the careers section of their website ([www.kalsec.com/careers](http://www.kalsec.com/careers)) for details.

# Free Chemistry Library Materials

These **free** Chemistry Library materials (see list below) are available from Dr. Don Butler in Holland, MI, to a caring “home”; if there is any interest, contact KACS member Tom Nanninga at [t\\_cnann@charter.net](mailto:cnann@charter.net). **Essentially all are hard cover—library quality.**

- Organic Syntheses Collective Volumes I-VI
- Organic Reactions Volumes 1-60
- Reagents for Organic Synthesis [Fieser & Fieser] Volumes 1-20
- Beilstein Organische Chemie 134 Volumes. {rescued from Parke Davis Library when Lab was closed}
- Compendium of Organic Synthetic Methods Volumes 1-5
- Azeotropic Data 3 Volumes
- Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials [Sax] 3 Volumes
- Reductions in Organic Chemistry 2 Volumes
- Survey of Organic Synthesis 2 Volumes [Buehler Pearson]
- Solubilities of Inorganic & Organic Compounds 3 Volumes [Seidel]
- Synthetic Organic Chemistry [Wagner & Zook]
- Pharmazeutische Wirkstoffe [Kleeman und Engel]
- Textbook of Practical Organic Chemistry [Vogel]
- Comprehensive Organic Transformations [Larock]
- Several Years of Synlett-Thieme – not bound



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## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.**



### June

- June 21: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- Project SEED will be virtual

### July

- NO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Project SEED will be virtual

### August

- August 16: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- August 22-26: National ACS Meeting (planned as “Hybrid” – virtual + in-person) in Atlanta, GA

### September

- September 20: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- Outdoor gathering/recruit new members?
- (tentative) Seminar speaker/possible ZOOM or social distancing



# The KalChemist News

August 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 7

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## URGENT Call for NCW Presenters

This is an URGENT call for volunteers for National Chemistry Week presentations on video!

Though our "event" will be on Saturday, October 16, it will again be done **virtually** this year, as the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is not yet generally open to the public.

This year's theme is "**Fast or Slow, Chemistry Makes it Go**" (Reaction Rates).

We want to express appreciation to, and warmly welcome, **Hershel Jude** who has agreed to succeed Lydia E. M. Hines as the **NEW KACS NCW Coordinator** starting with this Fall's event.

If you are willing to be a volunteer presenter PLEASE contact [Hershel Jude](mailto:Hershel.Jude); appropriate presentations will be videotaped for this program of activities in early September.

Our indefatigable collaborator at the KVM, Annette Hoppenworth, is working on a schedule for videotaping presenters; when you volunteer she will contact you concerning time of videotaping.

Activities you may want to consider may be found in the [Celebrating Chemistry publication](#) for this year's event.

Though our "event" will be on Saturday, October 16, it will again be done **virtually** this year, as the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is not yet generally open to the public.

## 2021 KACS

### Executive Officers

#### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas

[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

#### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude

[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

#### Chair-Elect

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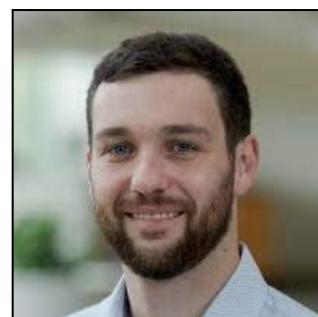
## Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society



### Updated Website Now Live

Have you checked out [www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org) recently? Thanks to the diligent effort of Mike Weslosky, Hershel Jude and Ed Thomas, and a grant from National ACS, the site has been updated! It features information about the KACS, its policies, programs, opportunities to volunteer, newsletter information and much more!

We also want to thank Dr. Mark Wolfman (pictured at right) who initiated the development of our previous website in ~2011 when he was a KACS member and continued his service as our webmaster even after he moved to the Chicago area (Chicago Section) until recently when this new website became operational.



### Job Opportunity Publication Policy



At its June meeting, the following was agreed to by the Kalamazoo ACS Executive Committee as guidance to employers who want to request publication of job opportunities in our newsletter, **The KalChemist News**.

**Purpose:**

To provide information to our members regarding local employment opportunities

**Policy:**

- A company's employment opportunity must be in the KACS service area (Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren counties)
- The advertisement may include general company information, broad requirements regarding desired applicant backgrounds, and the process for applying. No specific position(s) may be listed.
- Total copy is limited to not more than 100 words

A company may advertise opportunities periodically, as space is available.

### Strategic Planning Meeting Set

Dear Members,

On November 13 and 14, a group of local ACS members will conduct a strategic planning meeting to help guide our local section of over 250 members on our mission and top priorities for the next 3 to 5 years. **I hope when you receive our questionnaire in early September you will complete it to help us with our planning.** We will keep you informed as we move through the process this fall.



Sincerely,  
Ed Thomas  
Chair

## Safety a Core Value of ACS



Safety is a core value of ACS; for resources and guidance please visit <https://institute.acs.org/lab-safety.html>

At a Safety session at the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting there was definite interest expressed regarding the **important need for Chemistry Departments to consider developing a Masters Degree curriculum leading to a credentialed degree titled “Chemical Safety Health Professional”** which would give the recipient the chemistry background needed to deal with issues beyond just “emergency response” in both academic and industrial settings.

### Free Online Course on Chemical Safety

*(From ACS Matters dated June 15, 2021)*

The ACS Office of Safety Programs is offering “[Foundations of Chemical Safety and Risk Management](#),” a free online course that's open to all. The target audience is undergraduate chemistry students who have completed two semesters of general chemistry and one semester of organic chemistry, but anyone who wants to increase their knowledge about risk-based chemical safety can sign up.

The course incorporates learning objectives from the "Guidelines for Chemical Laboratory Safety" published by the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety and the ACS Committee on Professional Training, and is based on the principles of **RAMP**: **R**ecognize hazards, **A**ssess the risks from the hazards, **M**inimize and manage the risks, and **P**repare for the unexpected and emergencies.

The self-paced course includes 17 units and takes approximately 15 hours to complete. Participants will learn the components of a strong safety culture, how to recognize hazards in the laboratory, methods to minimize hazards and risks, processes needed to plan for emergencies, and how to apply the principles of RAMP to laboratory operations. Attendees will receive a certificate. For complete course details and online enrollment, visit the [Safety Programs](#) website, or send email to [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org).

## ACS National Meeting Coming Soon

[Registration](#) is open for the National ACS Meeting, set for August 22-26! The meeting will be a hybrid: Virtual and In-Person, in Atlanta, GA.

There will be up to 1,400 hours of **live interactive virtual technical presentations** and 700 hours of **in-person technical presentations including both oral and poster talks**. ACS and Technical Divisions will be hosting **in-person and virtual networking events** to help you connect and share ideas with your peers from around the world. You are also invited

to **join in-person OR online for the remarkable talks planned for the Opening Session and Kavli Lecture Series**. Don't miss these highlight events – [register](#) today!



# KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact Ed Thomas for information regarding how you may participate.**

## August

- August 16: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- August 22-26: National ACS Meeting (“Hybrid” – virtual + in-person) in Atlanta, GA. [Register here!](#)

## September

- Early September: Videotaping of NCW activities by volunteers—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Please contact [Hershel Jude](#) to learn what activities need to be “adopted.”
- September 20: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- September 28: Speed Networking being planned for college students
- TBD—Outdoor gathering/recruit new members
- TBD—Seminar speaker/possible ZOOM or social distancing

## October

- October 16: NCW (virtual) at Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Theme: “Fast or Slow, Chemistry Makes it Go” (Reaction Rates)
- October 18: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- TBD –Possible industry panel

## November

- November 15: KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- TBD—Bell’s Recycle-a-Poster Event



## *Chemistry Day 2020*





# The KalChemist News

September 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 8

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## A Letter from the Chair

Dear Members,

I can't believe summer is over and the children are back in school.

I am still working to continue our seminar series in the fall. Any suggestions?

It looks like we will have Zoom presentations for a while.

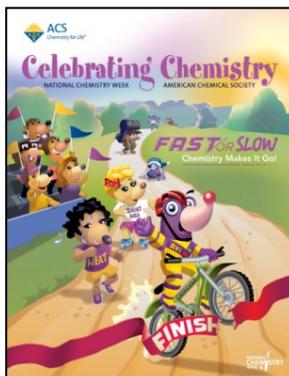
As I reported last month, a group of local ACS members will conduct a strategic planning meeting to help guide our local section of over 250 members on our mission and top priorities for the next 3 to 5 years. I will keep



you informed as we move through the process this fall. **You should be receiving a link to a questionnaire by September 17; by completing it you will help us with our planning effort.**

I look forward to your comments and suggestions at any time.

Sincerely,  
Ed Thomas  
KACS Chair



## Celebrating Chemistry

Copies of the printed version of Celebrating Chemistry (a publication with activities appropriate for Grades 4-6) for this year's NCW (Theme: *Fast or Slow, Chemistry Makes it Go*) are available by contacting Hershel Jude. The publication may be viewed online [here](#).

## National Chemistry Week Thanks

We want to thank the following volunteers who participated in the videotaping of activities for our 2021 National Chemistry Week outreach event; this will be available for viewing at the [Kalamazoo Valley Museum website](#) beginning on October 16 at noon.

Annette Hoppenworth (organizer extraordinaire)—KVM  
Matthew Barringer, Juliane Bauer, John Beck, Marah Bell, Renee Bull, Deb Coats, Brian Eklov, Tajay Haywood, Lydia Hines, Hershel Jude, Jacob Kirkendall, Carl Stachew, Blakely Tresca, Doug Williams.

## Kalamazoo's 2021 Project SEED Fellow

*(Note: In-person Project SEED research activities were canceled in 2021 for COVID and students were invited to participate in a virtual "summer camp" of academic and professional development activities that were organized by the ACS national office. Our local student, Dryw, had the additional opportunity to do research virtually through a pilot program that ACS launched this year for a subset of SEED Fellows. We congratulate her on completing the program and on presenting her work at the online ACS Undergraduate Poster Session on August 23.)*

Hello, my name is Dryw Starkey-Williams. I am currently a senior at Kalamazoo Central High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

I was informed about the possibility of being a part of the Project SEED Program for the summer of 2021 by my wonderful chemistry teacher, Dr. Chartanay Bonner.

I have been playing cello for seven years. I am an ambassador for the Helen L. Fox Gospel Music Program that is located at the Douglas Community Center here in Kalamazoo. I was accepted on the high school improv team as a freshman and performed in my first high school theatrical production this past year.



I enjoy creating original designs and have a teespring page called phoenixrisesbydryw, which I started working on this past year. One of my drawings was included in a novel my mother Meana Starkey-Williams wrote called "Rebecca," that came out in Spring 2020. I am a member of a relatively new musical group called Orchestra Jammbo'laya that performs locally, and I enjoy knitting, crocheting, and sewing.

I do not have a strong background in science in general, but I do have a huge interest in learning about a variety of different subjects. I was thrilled when I found out that I had been accepted to the Project SEED program.

I was a little nervous at first about my capabilities since I had a lack of background knowledge of the field in general, aside from classes in chemistry, but with a little encouragement from my mother, I decided that I would move past my original fears and concerns. As the project unfolded, I learned that I needed to do more background reading to participate more effectively in the research work.

Professor John Hull (MSU - St. Andrews) was amazing! Our Project SEED project was finding the most efficient way to make 5-chloromethylfurfural from carbohydrates, such as fructose.

What I appreciated most about Project SEED was the kindness, respect, and patience that was shown to me by all of the staff connected with the program. Professor Hull made the experience not only an educational one, but also made me feel like I was a valuable participant, which really encouraged me to want to study and learn as much as possible during my free time.

**Project SEED  
has expanded my mind  
as to what possibilities  
there are out there,  
and I am  
forever grateful  
that I was given  
the opportunity  
to be a part of  
the program  
this summer.**

Nick Henton was also very helpful. Anytime I had a question or concern, he was always willing to go the extra mile to find a solution if he did not already know the answer.

Project SEED Fellow Walker Shumann (John Glenn HS, Bay City) was my partner for the project. He had more science background than I did going into the program and he was great to work with.

At this time, I am not sure what degree I will pursue after high school, but I do feel that Project SEED has expanded my mind as to what possibilities there are out there, and I am forever grateful that I was given the opportunity to be a part of the program this summer.

## Nominations Sought for Officer Positions

We are seeking nominations for KACS officer positions:

- Chair-elect for 2022 (a one-year term with a 3-year commitment: one year as chair-elect, followed by one year as chair, followed by a third year as past-chair)
- Secretary for the 2-year term, 2022-2023, and
- Alternate councilor for the 3-year term of 2022-2024.

Send nominations — yourself or others (check with them to ascertain their willingness) to [Ed Thomas](#).



---

## KACS 2020 Annual Report and Reviewer's Evaluation

Please take a look at our KACS 2020 Annual Report, along with our reviewer's evaluation, which is available [here](#).

Our reviewer's evaluation of our KACS 2020 activities is included here:

\*Congratulations to your Leadership for maintaining such a high level of engagement for the local section during a very difficult year. Your pre-pandemic in-person meeting was very well attended. Likewise, adapting to the all-virtual meetings for the remainder of the year, while "not the same" kept the Local Section together as much as possible during the pandemic.

The local section's ability to adapt and improvise

during the year is remarkable. Moving the high-school awards from tests to nomination by teachers when schools were closed was an excellent idea, as well as the videotaped demonstrations for the local museum during NCW, is noteworthy.

With respect to concerns regarding member involvement in Local Sections Activities, the leadership team may want to consider polling the membership to get an idea of what the membership needs are and then to begin to address those needs via various programming as pandemic restrictions are lifted. The Local Sections' Leadership concerns regarding COVID-19 meeting restrictions will, hopefully, be eliminated in the near future as the State (and country) moves to normalcy.

---

## Does National ACS Have Your Current Information?



Please make sure that the National ACS has your **current e-mail/ mailing address available to them** ([service@acs.org](mailto:service@acs.org); 800-333-9511). National ACS **Election information** will be distributed to members in late September; be on the lookout in your e-mail for information about a Town Hall on September 21 at 1 pm with the Director-at-Large candidates, and another with the President-Elect candidates sometime between September 20 and 24.

---

## Comments Regarding 2021 Fall ACS Meeting

Three brief comments regarding the 2021 Fall ACS Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia:

- There were ~8,200 total registrants for the hybrid (virtual and in-person) meeting.
- Future national meetings will likely have a virtual component to them as well.

- The Board approved the following member registration fees for ACS 2022 Spring and Fall Meetings: in-person/hybrid member registration \$399; virtual member registration fee \$199.

A summary of Council and Board Actions taken at the meeting will be available [here](#).

## ACS Fall 2021 On Demand Presentations Available Now!

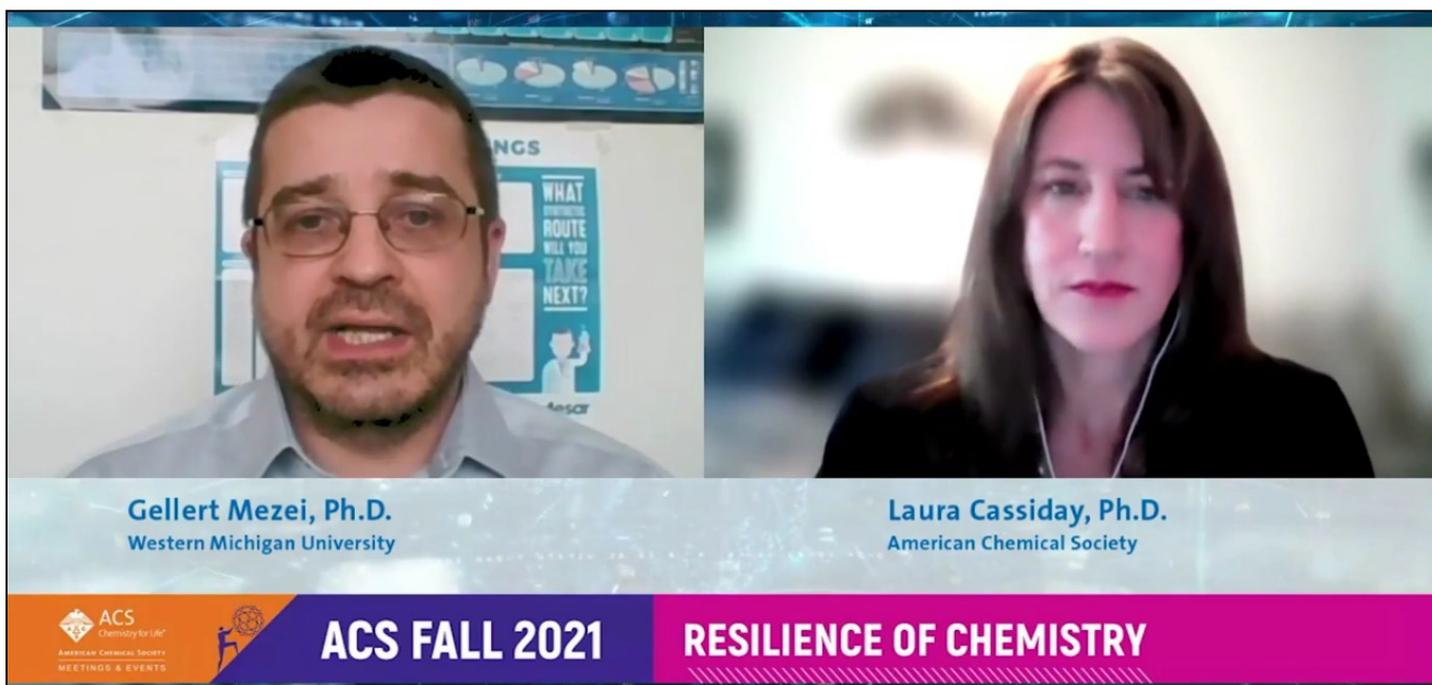
Did you miss one of the live oral presentations\*, the Opening Session, or Kavli Lecture Series? Or would you like to take some extra time to explore the poster presentations? Visit the [virtual event platform](#) now to access on-demand presentations from ACS Fall 2021.

Registration for ACS Fall 2021 is open until September 30. If you [register now](#), you can take advantage of exploring all the available on-demand presentations! To access the ACS Fall 2021 content,

log in to the [virtual event platform](#) using the ACS ID you used to register. On-Demand access will be available now until September 30.

*\*At the discretion of the presenter.*

Dr. Gellert Mezei is a professor of Chemistry at WMU and member of our KACS who presented his group's "Nanojar" research work at the Fall ACS Meeting; it was highlighted and may be reviewed at the links [here](#) and [here](#).



### KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; please contact [Ed Thomas](#) for information regarding how you may participate.

#### September

- **September 20:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- **September 27:** Speaker TBD
- **September 28:** Fall Speed Networking ([page 5](#))

#### October

- **October 16:** NCW (virtual) at Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Theme: "Fast or Slow, Chemistry Makes it Go" (Reaction Rates)
- **October 18:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- **October 21:** Speaker TBD

#### November

- **November 7:** Bell's Recycle-a-Poster Event TBD
- **November 12-14:** Strategic Planning Retreat (ZOOM)
- **November 15:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)

#### December

- **December 20:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)

# CHEMISTS:

## *Grow Your Network*

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**6:30-8 p.m. EST - Zoom**

**Register online:**

<https://bit.ly/374z5fy>

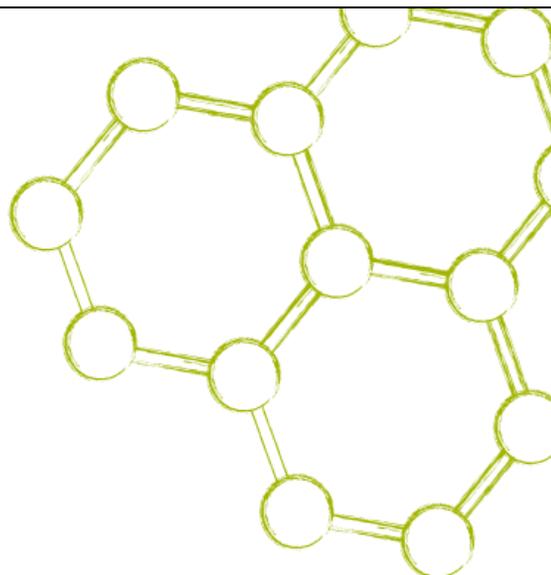
***Join us for interactive networking fun!***

Please join us for a virtual speed networking event jointly hosted by Kalamazoo College and the Kalamazoo ACS Local Section <https://kalamazooacs.org/>. Attendees will receive web conferencing details upon registration.

**Questions? Please contact:**

**Jackie Srodes, [jsrodes@kzoo.edu](mailto:jsrodes@kzoo.edu)**

**Blakely Tresca, [Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu](mailto:Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu)**



### **Schedule:**

**6:30 p.m.**

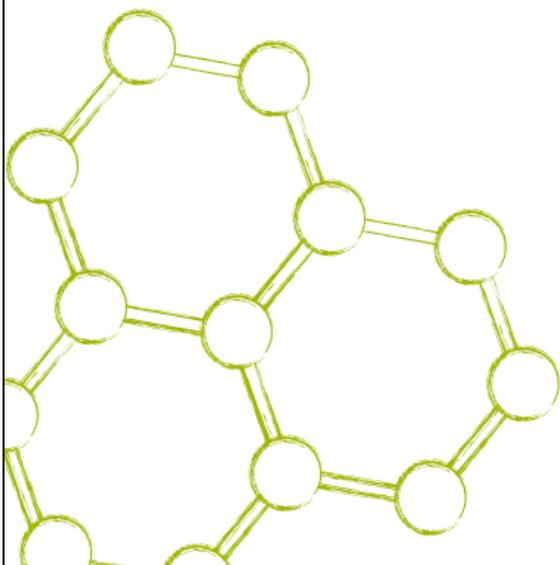
**Welcome**

**6:45-7:45 p.m.**

**Speed Networking**

**7:45 p.m.**

**Wrap Up/Thank You!**



KALAMAZOO COLLEGE



CENTER FOR  
CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

*More in Four. More in a Lifetime.*



# The KalChemist News

October 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 9

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[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

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[dwilliams@kalsec.com](mailto:dwilliams@kalsec.com)

## Committee to Participate in Strategic Planning Session for KACS

Dear Members,

On the weekend of November 12-14, the committee listed below will participate in a strategic planning session for our KACS. This meeting will involve reviewing our [mission statement](#) and devising goals for our section for the next 3 to 5 years. If you know these people, please encourage them and give them any feedback related to your view of our section. Over 95 of our members have responded to our questionnaire that went live on Thursday, September 16. Thank you. We will use the results of questionnaire to guide us in our section's future plans.

- **Doug Williams**, Treasurer and Project SEED Coordinator, Regulatory at Kalsec
- **Lydia Hines**, KACS Councilor, Newsletter Editor
- **Nicole Burke**, Discovery at Kalsec
- **Hershel Jude**, Past Chair, Hops at Kalsec
- **Ed Thomas**, Chair KACS
- **Ben Maxey**, Chair Elect, API compliance at Pfizer
- **Blakely Tresca**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Kalamazoo College
- **Sydney Collins**, Student at WMU
- **Tomasz Respondek**, Scientist at Zoetis
- **Luke Chadwick**, Senior Scientist at Bell's
- **Rodger Nahas**, VP of R&D Kalsec
- **Carl Stachew**, Pfizer

I look forward to the November Strategic Planning Meeting and will report our output to you as soon as it is available.

Take care,  
Ed Thomas

## Obituary for Thomas Houser

A retired chemistry faculty member who taught at WMU for 31 years (1964-95), and a member of the KACS for more than 50 years, Tom recently was living in Niles, MI. Brown Funeral Home in Niles handled arrangements; read his obituary [here](#).



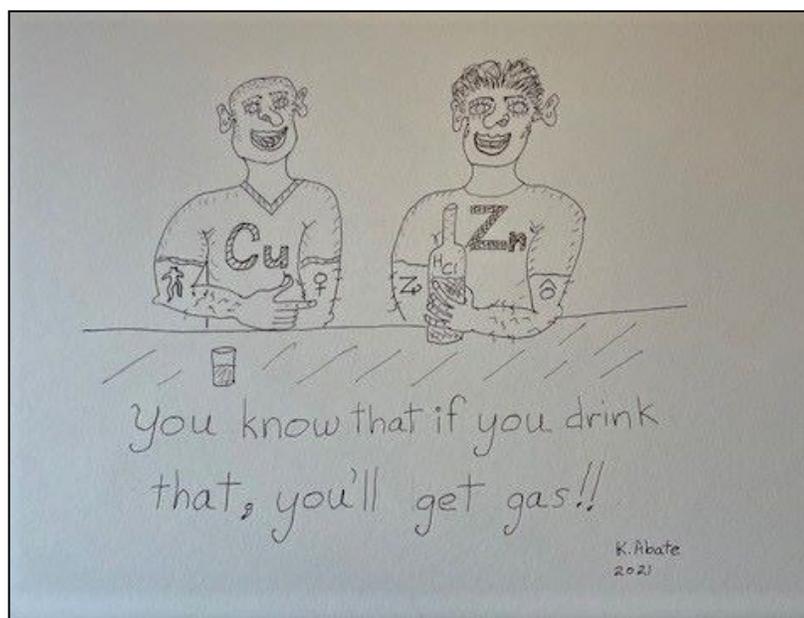
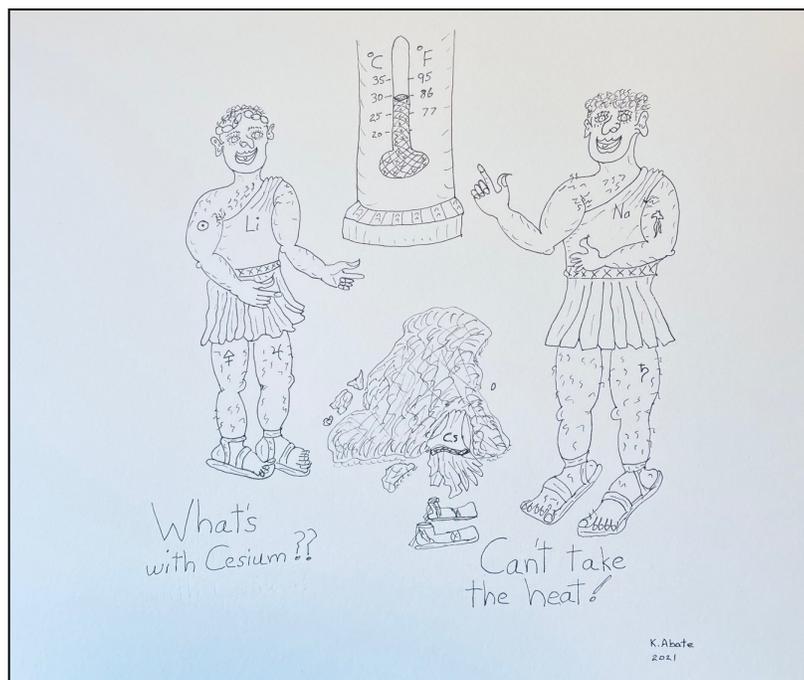
# Speed Networking Event Held Virtually

By **Blakely Tresca**

Future chemists and industry mentors gathered virtually on Sept 28th for the 5th KACS Speed Networking night in Zoom. Now in its fourth year, the event is jointly organized by KACS and Kalamazoo College. Attendees included K College chemistry majors, WMU graduate students, and mentors from across the Kalamazoo area. This is the second virtual networking event, a pandemic induced switch that is helping to grow the event beyond the Kalamazoo/Portage area. Speed Networking brings together future chemists and mentors from local industry to build a networking community for young chemists. Mentors and students met one-on-one for ten minutes to discuss their experiences, share strategies for career success, and tips for networking. Between breakout rooms, we heard from **Jackie Srodes** in the K-college Career Development Center and **Ed Thomas**, KACS chair, about career resources available to students and recent graduates. **Suja Thakali**, a chemistry major at K, shared her experience as a past Speed Networking attendee and the advice she learned. **Bob Gadwood** shared stories of career surprises and the importance of networking to overcome setbacks. We're looking forward to another great evening next year and hopefully a return to in-person networking. Interested in becoming a mentor for the next event? Contact [Blakely Tresca](#) for info.

## Webinar Access Available

JAWS Chem, available at this [link](#) shared by K College's **Blakely Tresca**, gives access to webinars presented by early-career scientists.



## Cartoon Congratulations

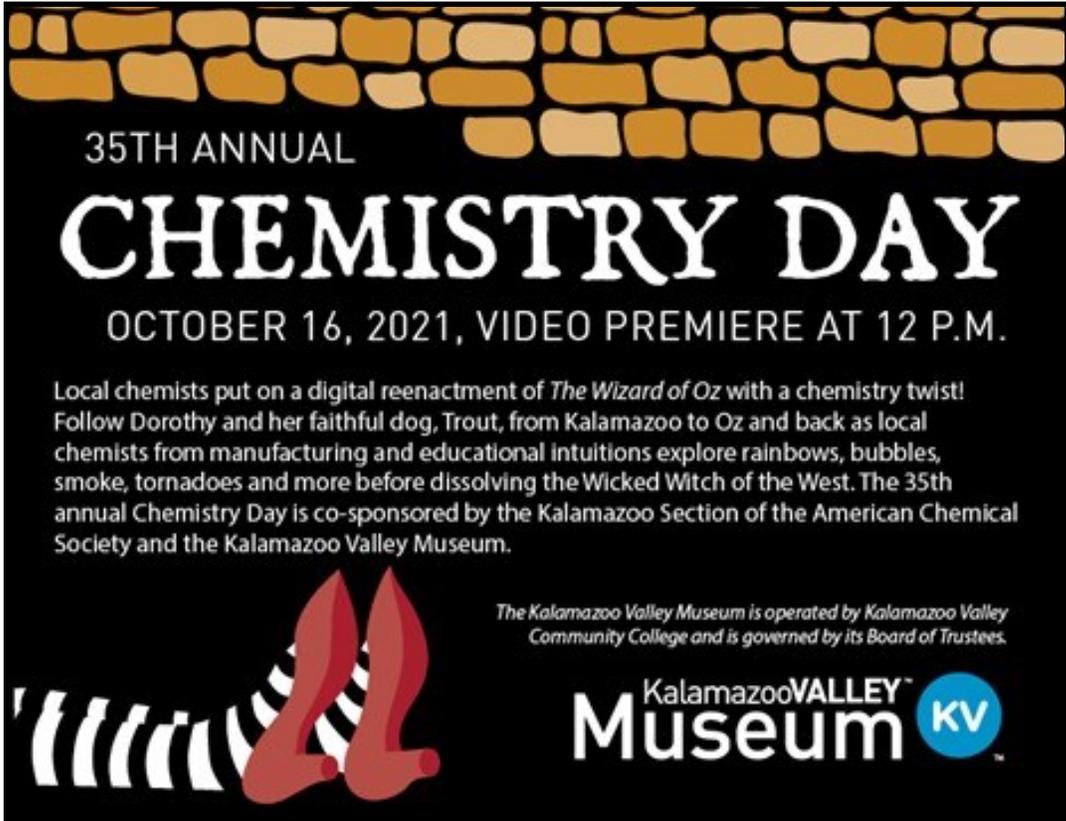
One of our long-time ACS members (though fairly recent to KACS), **Kenneth Abate**, has been busy sketching cartoons; he recently submitted two of his items to the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) "Elemental Art contest" and his two cartoons shown above ["Can't Take the Heat" and "You'll Get Gas"], were awarded a third prize from among the 27 cartoons entered in that category of the competition. The judges were very excited by the originality and quality of his work and selected it for the award "with utmost enthusiasm." These cartoons will be printed in the Spring 2022 HIST newsletter and also be published on the HIST website.

## Early-Career Advice from Industry Leaders

Read what biopharma executives have to say about the following question: *What is most important for your early career scientists, i.e., 0-5 years with your company, to accomplish in their first five years if they wish to be considered for advancement/promotion opportunities at your company?* in this informative article from [Industry Matters](#).

### Chemistry Day Video Premiere

This year's digital Chemistry Day features a re-enactment of *The Wizard of Oz* with a chemistry twist! The video premieres on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at noon; check out the link [here!](#)



35TH ANNUAL  
**CHEMISTRY DAY**  
OCTOBER 16, 2021, VIDEO PREMIERE AT 12 P.M.

Local chemists put on a digital reenactment of *The Wizard of Oz* with a chemistry twist! Follow Dorothy and her faithful dog, Trout, from Kalamazoo to Oz and back as local chemists from manufacturing and educational institutions explore rainbows, bubbles, smoke, tornadoes and more before dissolving the Wicked Witch of the West. The 35th annual Chemistry Day is co-sponsored by the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.

KalamazooVALLEY<sup>™</sup>  
**Museum** KV

The poster features a brick pattern at the top, a red and white striped pattern at the bottom, and a red and white striped pattern in the center.

## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact [Ed Thomas](#) for information regarding how you may participate.**

### October

- **October 16:** [NCW at Kalamazoo Valley Museum, virtually](#). **Theme:** *Fast or Slow, Chemistry Makes it Go* (Reaction Rates) [October 17-23: National Chemistry Week]
- **October 18-24:** SciFest 2021, virtual expo for K-12 (STEM); register [here](#).
- **October 18:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- **October 21:** **Noon Seminar** given by KACS member **Dr. Gellert Mezei**, Professor of Chemistry at WMU (ZOOM, contact [Ed Thomas](#) for invitation link). **Title:** *Removal of anionic contaminants from water using nanojars*
- **October 23:** MOLE DAY ( $6.022 \times 10^{23}$ )

### November

- **November 12-14:** Strategic Planning Retreat (ZOOM)
- **November 15:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- Bell's Recycle-a-Poster Event Postponed – a 2022 rescheduling is anticipated
- Possible Industry Panel (ZOOM) – date, time, how to register to attend, speakers, TBD

### December

- **December 20:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)



# The KalChemist News

November 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 10

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## Getting Ready for Project SEED 2022

By Doug Williams

Project SEED, if you are unaware, is ACS' program to provide paid, summer research experiences to high school students from economically-disadvantaged families. If you would like more information and inspiration for this remarkable program, please see the [Project SEED home page](#) and [impact page](#). Although in-person research programs for Project SEED were canceled in 2020 and 2021 for COVID, we are optimistic for a return to local internships in Summer 2022. Planning is underway and the ACS will begin to receive proposals on December 1.



At present, we have mentor commitment and sufficient funding to support at least two local section internships next summer but we are willing and interested in expanding our program because we have had to turn a few qualified students away in recent years. With that in mind, I ask you to consider the following three requests:

1. Please send me an email if you would like to serve as a research mentor for a Project SEED fellow in 2022, or if you know of someone else who would be willing to serve in that role.
2. Please send me an email if you know of a worthy student who may qualify for a Project SEED fellowship.
3. ACS expects a \$1250 matching commitment from local sections for each approved project. If you would like to make a donation to our local Project SEED fund, please see our [KACS Project SEED webpage](#) for instructions on how to contribute. Thank you!

Doug Williams, KACS Project SEED Coordinator  
[treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org)

## Remember to Renew!

ACS membership renewal notices will be arriving soon — Remember to renew!

More detailed information about the new packages and a general member FAQ can also be found on [www.acs.org/newchoices](http://www.acs.org/newchoices). Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or feedback by sending an email to [mac@acs.org](mailto:mac@acs.org).



# Thank You for Survey Participation!

Dear Members,

You stepped up and delivered by participating in our recent survey. We will use your answers to the questions on the first day, November 12, of the KACS strategic planning session. Your likes, dislikes and suggestions will help us set goals and plans for future activities in the section.

I was very pleased with your responses, your attention to detail and the quality of the material we have to work with. A summary of your responses is given below.

I hope you will be excited with the strategic planning outcome and our efforts to serve you.

Sincerely,

Ed Thomas

2021 KACS Chair

*Kalamazoo Local Section Survey: Report of Findings*  
October 15, 2021

## Background

The survey was distributed by the Kalamazoo Local Section to approximately 300 affiliated ACS members on September 16. A reminder to complete the survey was sent on September 24. A total of 96 respondents attempted the survey by the closing date on October 11. The final response rate is 32% with a margin of error +/-8.2%.

## Key Findings

The majority of respondents (59%) have attended 1-3 events and activities organized by the Kalamazoo Local Section. Roughly one quarter (23%) of respondents attended zero events or activities.

Bell's Poster Session (54%), outreach activities (41%), and Zoom presentations or celebrations (33%) are the top events or activities identified by respondents who indicated participation in at least one event.

The majority of respondents (55%) declare they are likely to participate in Kalamazoo Section-sponsored events within the next 12 months.

Respondents who are unlikely to participate in local section events within the next 12 months indicate working hours, health, relocation, and the pandemic as reasons for intended lack of participation.

Two thirds (66%) of respondents are satisfied with events and activities organized by the Kalamazoo Local Section. Respondents who are dissatisfied identify a lack of defined event types between social or professional and de-prioritization of engagement within events as reasons for their dissatisfaction.

Respondents identify networking opportunities, the variety of events, quality of content or topic, and scheduling as the main contributing factors influencing their satisfaction with Kalamazoo Local Section events.

**Respondents identify networking opportunities, the variety of events, quality of content or topic, and scheduling as the main contributing factors influencing their satisfaction with Kalamazoo Local Section events.**

See SURVEY, continued on page 3

## SURVEY, continued from page 2

Half of respondents (54%) identify C&EN as one of their two main reasons for being an ACS member. Just under half, or 46%, highlight local section events and activities as one of their two main reasons for ACS membership. Responses for “other, please specify” (25%) include specific ACS resources or benefits, community, continuation, comfort, and networking as other reasons.

The majority of respondents (70%) consider the Kalamazoo Local Section to provide subject matter related to their community interests. Less than half (41%) consider the Local Section to provide subject matter related to their career interests with one-third (31%) indicating a lack of alignment within the same context.

- Respondents identify medicine, networking, research presentations and speakers, chemistry education, and mass spectrometry as topics in alignment with their career interests that are offered by the Local Section. Respondents include toxicology, teaching in chemistry and agricultural chemistry as topics of interest not currently offered by the Kalamazoo Local Section.
- Respondents identify education outreach, WMU, chemical education, resources for students, local research/applications of chemistry, family-friendly topics, and women in chemistry as topics in alignment with their community interests that are offered by the Local Section. Respondents include diversity and community activism as community topics of interest not currently offered by the Kalamazoo Local Section.
- Respondents identify access to publications or resources such as C&EN, exposure to new research, mentoring, community engagement, career resources, networking, local sections, and insurance as benefits offered by ACS as the most useful to their interests.
- Just under half of respondents (46%) declare a preference for hybrid participation (a combination of in-person and virtual) in Local Section activities in light of COVID-19. One fifth (21%) of respondents indicate a preference for in-person participation.
- Half of respondents (54%) would prefer to participate in-person for Local Section events once COVID-19 no longer impacts social engagements.
- Three-quarters (80%) of respondents indicate email as the preferred method to receive communication from the Kalamazoo Local Section. Two-thirds (67%) of respondents identify the monthly newsletter as their preferred method of Local Section communications.



## Demographics

- Industry: Pharmaceuticals (32%), Education (26%), Other (14%), Agriculture/Food/Beverage (8%), Independent Consulting (5%), Not Directly in Chemistry (5%), Environment/Conservation (3%), Hospital or Clinic (3%), Industrials (3%), Engineering/Construction (1%); other includes fluoropolymer, toxicology, consultant, and retired.
- Professional Role: Retired (31%), Educator (23%), Staff Scientist (21%), Consultant (11%), Other (6%), Executive (4%), Student/Post-Doc (3%), Laboratory Manager (1%); other includes analyst, director, engineer, disability, and retired.
- Age: 65+ (40%), 55-64 (23%), 35-44 (11%), 45-54 (10%), 25-34 (10%), prefer not to say (3%), 18-24 (1%)
- Gender: Male (74%), Female (23%), Prefer not to say (3%)
- Racial/Ethnic background: White (86%), Prefer not to say (5%), Other (4%), Native or Indigenous American (3%), Latino or Hispanic (3%), African Descent or Black (3%), Asian (1%); Other includes Lithuanian, Middle Eastern, Irish-Lithuanian

# KACS and National Election Results

## KACS Election Results

- 2022 Chair-elect: **Nicole Burke**
- 2022-23 Secretary: **Jacob Kirkendall**
- 2022-24 Alternate Councilor: **Tomasz Respondek**

## ACS National Election Results

- ACS 2022 President-Elect: **Judith C. Giordan**, Managing Director and Vice President, ecosVC
- District V Director (our KACS is in District V): **Lisa M. Balbes**, Freelance Technical Writer and Editor with Balbes Consultants
- Director at Large: **Natalie LaFranzo**, Vice President of Market Development at Cofactor Genomics
- Director at Large: **Lee Latimer**, Drug Development Consultant with LHLatimer Consulting



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## Providing Members with Essential Educational Information

The following is a comment by William J. Greenlee, chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) titled "CAS and ACS Publications: Drivers of ACS financial strength" C&E News, October 18, 2021, p. 35

<https://cen.acs.org/acs-news/comment/CAS-ACS-Publications-Drivers-ACS/99/i38>

As you will read in the above article, ACS is always striving to provide members and educators with essential educational information on a variety of topics; highlighted below is a new offering regarding **Safety**, a subject applicable in all settings in which chemists work.

### Newly Released: On-Demand Lab Safety Instruction

To address the need to introduce critical lab safety skills and set a defined standard for safety, ACS Publications has introduced [ACS Essentials of Lab Safety for General Chemistry](#), a new 90-minute on-demand course, designed by teaching faculty and safety experts from top universities in the U.S., intended to give students the opportunity to learn and practice key concepts in laboratory safety and chemical communication, and to build their confidence before working in the lab for the first time.

Although [ACS Essentials of Lab Safety for General Chemistry](#) is designed for students, it also benefits universities and professors, offering assurance that students will develop a sense of personal responsibility for lab safety after completing the lessons. This course is the first of many resources being developed by ACS Publications and ACS Education for the new [ACS Center for Lab Safety](#), one of seven centers in the [ACS Institute](#). Future courses will support a spiral curriculum, deepening and broadening safety education alongside chemical education. **This curriculum will include instruction tailored to teaching assistants, in addition to videos and resources to help create a culture of lab safety, and case studies based on real-world examples.**



ACS Members qualify for a discount on the registration fee for [ACS Essentials of Lab Safety for General Chemistry](#). For organization-level deployment, please visit [this page](#) to contact the ACS Sales Team. You can request a demonstration and learn about the seamless integration of the course into your institution's learning management system, so students can begin using the course during the Fall 2021 academic semester.



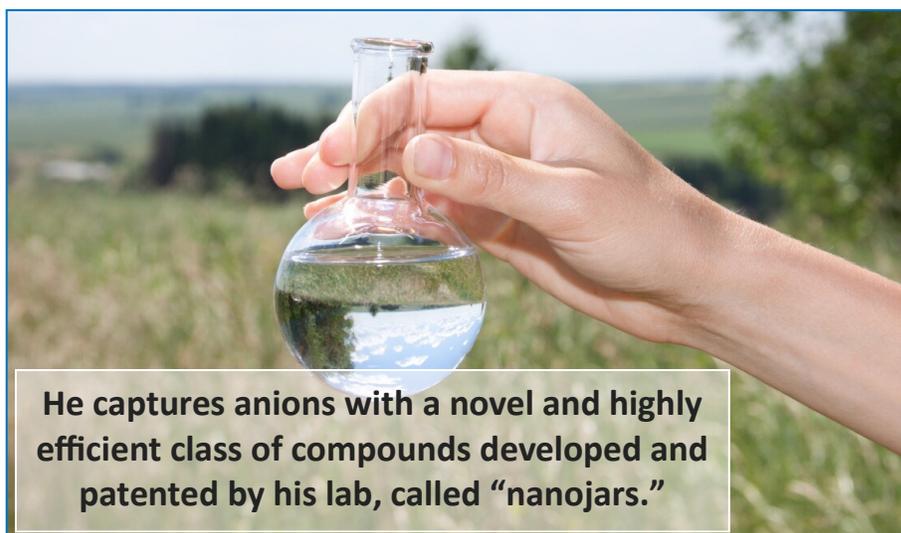
## ZOOM Seminar Presentation: Nanojars

### By Ed Thomas

Dr. Gellert Mezei, a full professor of chemistry at Western Michigan University, presented a seminar entitled “Removal of Anionic Contaminants from Water Using Nanojars” to the KACS at noon on October 21. Members and students enjoyed his noon chemistry talk over Zoom.

Dr. Mezei received his B.S. and M.S. chemistry degrees in Romania. He then moved to Puerto Rico and received a Ph.D. under Dr. Raptis at the University of Puerto Rico. Wishing to further his chemistry foundation he joined Dr. Pecoraro for a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty of Western Michigan University in 2007 and became a full professor in 2019.

His research, funded by the National Science Foundation, explores the selective encapsulation and extraction of anions, including toxic pollutants, such as chromate and arsenate. He captures anions with a novel and highly efficient class of compounds developed and patented by his lab, called “nanojars.” Pyrazoles, five-membered nitrogen heterocycles, serve as the building blocks for nanojars. Key findings of the research include strong binding of highly hydrophilic anions by totally incarcerating the anion and achieving selectivity among the anions by rigidifying the nanojars. Importantly, extraction of carbon dioxide from water in the form of carbonate by capped-nanojars has been demonstrated. The capped-nanojars were characterized by mass spec, NMR and x-ray crystallography.



The participants asked many questions as to costs, scale up and to clarification of the beautiful chemistry presented. With a hearty round of applause the audience sounded its appreciation.

# News of Activities from the WMU Chemistry Club

By **Sydney Collins**  
*2021 club president*



This Fall semester has been one full of new challenges as well as opportunities for the Chemistry Club thus far. One challenge in particular was recruitment. The Bronco Bash is an annual event that is held that allows University clubs to advertise their organization and recruit members. This year, Bronco Bash was not able to be held in-person due to the pandemic, which led WMU to get creative. As an alternative, we were able to create virtual booths using a program called Degy World. Students were able to create avatars and roam freely to look at booths and speak with the club representatives. It was a unique experience and we were able to recruit quite a few new members. We were also able to visit various Chemistry classes on campus and speak to students directly to advertise our club to new members.

In October, we had the privilege of hosting Dr. Stull as a guest speaker at our meeting. He discussed the research he is performing in his lab that is investigating specific enzymes and their role in a possible therapy for nicotine addiction. Our next meeting was a pumpkin carving party in which we were able to spend time with the newer members and get to know them. In the future, we will be hosting one more guest speaker who is a current PhD student in organic chemistry at WMU. We also plan on discussing possible research opportunities as well as student resources in the chemistry department in order to ensure that students succeed in our chemistry department.

These next two months hold four separate events that the Chemistry Club will take part in. Three of these events will be school visits where we will visit the elementary school in-person or virtually and perform chemistry experiments and explain them at their age level. The activities that will be performed will include the acetone and styrofoam experiment, elephant toothpaste, the rising-water pressure experiment, slime, the can-implosion experiment, and two different dry ice experiments dealing with dish soap bubbles. Through the demonstration of these experiments, we are able to cover topics such as states of matter, chemical and physical changes, elements in nature, catalysts, pressure and temperature relationships, and heat and energy in reactions. With the help of visuals, body movement, and questions, these young chemists tend to be very engaged during these presentations. The schools we will visit include Prairieview Elementary and Calhoun Christian School in Battle Creek, and Springport Elementary School in Springport.

The fourth event we will be taking part in will be the Junior High Science Day hosted by WMU. This is an annual event where Western hosts middle school children and they view demonstrations put on by the various science departments the campus has to offer. Our demonstrations consist of the same experiments as the elementary school demonstrations, but with more advanced explanations and questions. This event is planned to be held virtually this year. These next two months will be quite busy for the Chemistry Club, and we as a club are looking forward to the new experiences the coming events have to offer us.

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## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact [Ed Thomas](#) for information regarding how you may participate.**

### November

- **November 12-14:** Strategic Planning Retreat (ZOOM)
- **November 15:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)

- Possible Industry Panel (ZOOM) – date, time, how to register to attend, speakers, TBD

### December

- **December 20:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)



# The KalChemist News

December 2021

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## 2021 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Edward W. Thomas  
[edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)

### Past-Chair

Dr. Hershel Jude  
[hjude@kalsec.com](mailto:hjude@kalsec.com)

### Chair-Elect

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
[benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com](mailto:benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com)

### Secretary

Dr. James Redwine  
[jredwine@kalsec.com](mailto:jredwine@kalsec.com)

### Treasurer

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
[treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org)

### Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines  
[lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)

### Alternate Councilor

Dr. P. Douglas Williams  
[treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org)

## Draft Strategic Plan Complete

Dear Members,

The KACS' draft strategic plan is complete and shown on the next page. From November 12-14, Dr. Barbara Sawrey, an ACS member and emeritus professor from University of California, San Diego, and Dr. Amber Hinkle, an ACS member and Vice President at Covestro, facilitated our meeting.

The first portion of the meeting focused on reviewing and revising our vision and mission statements to the following:

**Vision: Enriching all people's lives in our community through chemistry**

**Mission: Connecting and educating local members, scientists, and students through innovative chemistry programs and outreach for the benefit of our community**

We then looked to the results of the KACS membership survey which we conducted this fall, and in which many of you participated. With this information and prework the committee completed, we set out to devise three clear goals for our KACS section (see next page). Following agreement on the goals, we devised three strategies each that could be implemented over an 18-month to 3-year timeframe. The draft

### Our Vision:

Enriching all people's  
lives in our community  
through chemistry

strategic plan and supporting documents will be finalized at the December 20 KACS Executive Committee Meeting.

During January 2022 the Executive Committee will vote to approve the strategic plan. The prioritization and timing of the identified strategies will be evaluated through 2022.

I wish to thank the planning committee (Nicole Burke, Luke Chadwick, Lydia Hines, Hershel Jude, Ben Maxey, Roger Nahas, Tomasz Respondek, Carl Stachew, Ed Thomas, Blakely Tresca and Doug Williams) for bringing a high level of professionalism, knowledge and commitment to the meeting and for producing our strategic plan. Further, thanks to Barbara Sawrey and Amber Hinkle for a productive and enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,  
Ed Thomas  
KACS Chair 2021

# 2021 KACS Draft Strategic Plan

Vision: Enriching all people's lives in our community through chemistry

Mission: Connecting and educating local members, scientists, and students through innovative chemistry programs and outreach for the benefit of our community.

**Goal 1: Work with educators to develop programs that benefit students.**

Strategy 1,1: Contact high school teachers (including AACT members/ KRESA/ VRESA/ ARESA) in winter 2022 to organize an informational meeting with KACS representatives to be held before the end of the academic year.

Strategy 1,2: Identify programs at K-8 level where KACS can make an impact.

Strategy 1,3: Establish an online community for HS teachers (needs assessment, share resources from ACS(AACT/KACS) and review progress for next steps by March 2022.

Strategy 1,4: **Continue** K-12 outreach programs like Chemistry Day at the Museum; Project Seed, etc. and support of WMU and KCollege student outreach programs.

**Goal 2: Increase participation and involvement within our community.**

Strategy 2,1: Develop and implement an online outreach strategy that expands on the local website [Identify Social media "champion"]

Strategy 2,2: Increase awareness among local industry and academia organizations of the value of KACS/outreach participation, benefits and involvement, by visiting 1 facility in each of our 3 counties in the next 9 months.

Strategy 2,3: Maintain and grow programs that engage the community to promote the value of science, through organizing an event on agricultural chemistry before year end 2022.

**Goal 3: Connect academia and industry through KACS to build a strong and inclusive community by organizing innovative local events.**

Strategy 3,1: Host Bell's poster event in October or November, subsidized from KACS funds. Evaluate impact and continuous optimization of future keynote topics to meet member needs.

Strategy 3,2: Hold annual members' meeting in person in April for summary of local section activities, awards and keynote speaker on relevant topic.

Strategy 3,3: Celebrate diversity of individuals and career paths through intentional incorporation at April/Nov events  
- April Event - Brainstorming on what diversity means to KACS (also networking benefit)  
- November Event - Use learnings from April event to guide planning this.

## Sincere Thanks and Warm Wishes to Annette Hoppenworth

In this final 2021 issue of [The KalChemist News](#) we would like to express our sincere thanks and warm wishes to Annette Hoppenworth on her retirement from her position at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM).

One of her many roles at the KVM was to champion our National Chemistry Week collaboration each October for the past 30+ years!

Many Thanks Annette! God-speed, and we will miss you!



## Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Blakely Tresca



Dr. Blakely Tresca, Kalamazoo College faculty, was selected as KACS' Volunteer Of The Year (VOTY) nominee; his name was submitted to the ACS' Committee on Community Activities (CCA).

Though fairly new to the KACS, Blakely participated in NCW video activities at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum the last couple of years, is a cheerleader for the Kalamazoo College Chemistry club and has been active in co-organizing the last two virtual Speed-networking sessions held by our KACS. He also participated in the recently-held virtual Strategic Planning session.

He is helping to organize a Panel of "more recently-minted" Industrial chemists to present their experiences, and the expectations they have determined important, to KACS-area college students interested in an industrial career.

## Cheesy Science

A fun article from ACS Industry Matters received by e-mail October 21, 2021:

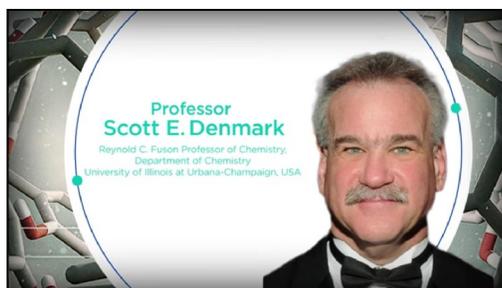
["How More than 100,000,000 Lbs. of Low-Fat Cheese Ended Up In School Cafeterias"](#)



## Editor's Pick

Editor's (Lydia's) Recommendation for your listening pleasure:

A short (~20 min) conversation between Dr. Scott Denmark, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Dr. Erick Carreira, recently-appointed editor-in-chief of JACS. [For the longer-term members the "local connections" may bring some nostalgia]



Watch the YouTube video [here](#).

## KACS Calendar

Any member is invited to attend our Executive Committee Meetings; **please contact [Ed Thomas](#) for information regarding how you may participate.**

### December

- **December 20:** KACS Executive Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (ZOOM)

### January 2022

- **January 18:** Industry Panel (ZOOM)

### February

- **Date TBD:** Seminar, Dr. Daniela Arias-Rotondo, Kalamazoo College Faculty (ZOOM)