



# The KalChemist News

January 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 1

## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
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### Past-Chair

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

### Chair-Elect

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[dmondal@kalsec.com](mailto:dmondal@kalsec.com)

### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

### Treasurer

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### Alternate Councilor

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[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)



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## Happy New Year!

As we start 2023, I would like to wish safe travels to our 2022 Chair-Elect Nicole Burke and her family, who are transferring to Europe for a temporary career opportunity. Unfortunately she will not be able to fulfill her term as KACS Chair from so far away, but we look forward to her eventual return to Kalamazoo and the KACS!



With Nicole's absence, I will continue as the section Chair for six additional months. In July, our incoming Chair-elect, Dibyendu Mondal, will assume the Chair role early and continue through his full term in 2024. Ed Thomas will also continue supporting the section as Past-chair in the new year.

I am excited to continue working with our excellent Executive Committee, which also includes Doug Williams (Treasurer, beginning his second term), Jacob Kirkendall (Secretary), Lydia Hines (Councilor), and Tomasz Respondek (Alternate Councilor).

As we emerge from our Covid bubbles, we are looking forward to a busy 2023. Please watch the newsletter for many upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, both in-person and virtual!

Together in science,  
Ben Maxey, KACS Section Chair

## Project SEED 2023—Calling Mentors!

We are still looking for a few additional mentors for [Project SEED](#) next summer. Do you have an idea for a research project that a talented high school student can help you complete? ACS will provide the funding for the student if you have the space, materials, and passion to advise. Projects run for 8 weeks during summer break at a full-time commitment. Mentors will be included in the student selection process to help us achieve good placements for talent and interest. Project proposals are due by February 8 and student selections usually take place between mid-April to mid-May. Please contact [Doug Williams](#) if you would like to sign up and/or are interested in learning more.

# KACS Calendar

## January

- January 16, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)

## February

- February 20, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)

## March

- March 20, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- March 26-30: [Spring National ACS Meeting](#) in Indianapolis, IN (hybrid), theme: "Crossroads of Chemistry"



## Positive!

Two atoms are walking down the street. One atom says to the other, "Hey! I think I lost an electron!"

The other asks, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm positive!"

## Opportunities to Get Involved

Here are a couple of activities being considered for 2023 that could benefit from your leadership (e.g., a summer family picnic) and/or your participation (e.g., Speed-networking)!

## Stay LinkedIn!

Remember to join the [KACS LinkedIn site](#) and check it regularly for information of interest!



We would love to hear from you and share your news with fellow scientists in the Kalamazoo area! Send your news and events to newsletter editor Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) by the end of the month in order to get it in next month's newsletter!



# The KalChemist News

February 2023

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Vol. 13, Issue 2

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## ACS President to Address Local Section

### By Dr. Ed Thomas

Dr. Judith C. Giordan, President of the ACS, will address KACS on February 22.

For the third consecutive year, we are fortunate to have the president of the ACS meet with our local section by ZOOM. This year our connection to the national organization will be Dr. Judith C. Giordan, who will address our section on **Wednesday, February 22, from 2:45 to 4:10 p.m. EST.** There will also be a room provided at Kalamazoo College where students and



Photo:  
C&E News

KACS members may enjoy the ZOOM presentation in a more social atmosphere. The live viewing will be in Room 229 of the Dow Science Building. Dr. Giordan's talk is entitled, **"ACS and YOU! The Power of Connections for Personal and Professional Growth!"**

Dr. Giordan received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. From there, she worked at Polaroid as a scientist and program leader. Then, she rose to the rank of vice president of corporate R&D at Henkel. Moving onward and upward, she became the global vice president of R&D at Pepsi-Cola. Following that position, International Flavors and Fragrances called and she became the corporate vice president, chief technology officer and global director of R&D.

Dr. Giordan has been a member of ACS since 1977 and has served on a number of boards. She has been honored for her contributions to chemistry and for her excellence in business development and management. For a more detailed biography of Dr. Giordan see [C&E News](#), January 2, 2023.

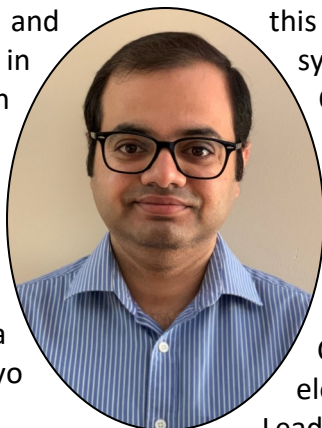
For those interested in attending by ZOOM please contact Ed Thomas at [edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com) and he will add you to the list of ZOOM participants. For those interested in participating at the Kalamazoo College location please contact Dr. Blakely Tresca at [Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu](mailto:Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu).



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## Meet Your Chair-Elect

My name is Dr. Dibyendu Mondal and currently I am working as a Lead Scientist in the biotransformation group of Kalsec. In my role, I am focused to provide innovative and sustainable biomanufacturing solutions to realize Kalsec's goal of nourishing the world. Prior to Kalsec, I worked in the drug discovery division of Takeda pharmaceuticals and Daiichi Sankyo pharma.



this time, I worked on automated and robotic systems for high-throughput screening. Over the years I have had the privilege to publish my findings in reputed journals of Science, Nature, and JACS.

I am honored to be elected as the 2023 Chair-Elect and 2023-2024 Chair of the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society. My journey as a chair-elect kicked off by attending the 2023 ACS Leadership Institute in Atlanta. I look forward

Academically, I hold a master's degree in organic chemistry and my Ph.D. is in mechanistic enzymology. My post-doc training was in protein engineering through directed evolution. Interestingly, the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded for the discovery of this technology. During

to learning and helping the Kalamazoo ACS section to achieve the local section's vision of creating awareness of chemistry by organizing local events and activities.

Best,  
Dibyendu

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### Opportunities to Get Involved

Here are a couple of activities being considered for 2023 that could benefit from your leadership and/or participation:

- A family picnic/member event – if interested contact [Dr. Edward Thomas](#), [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#), or [Ben Maxey](#))
- Our popular Speed-networking event in the Fall

### Optimist, Pessimist, Chemist

The optimist sees the glass half full. The pessimist sees the glass half empty. The chemist sees the glass completely full, half with liquid and half with air.

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## KACS Calendar

### February

- February 20, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- February 22, Wednesday, 2:45 p.m.: Hybrid lecture by Dr. Judith Giordan, 2023 ACS President; Zoom and K-College (229 Dow Science Building)

### March

- March 20, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- March 26-30: [Spring National ACS Meeting](#) in Indianapolis, IN (hybrid). Theme: "Crossroads of Chemistry"; [registration](#) is open; the Abstract submission deadline has passed.

### April

- April 17, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)

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## Stay LinkedIn!

Remember to join—and ask chemist friends to join!—the [KACS LinkedIn site](#) and check it regularly for information of interest!



## An Environmentally Important Article

We acknowledge the contribution of the following very interesting, and potentially environmentally important, article from KACS member **Kenneth Abate**.

Efficient Removal of Perfluorinated Chemicals from Contaminated Water Sources Using Magnetic Fluorinated Polymer Sorbents

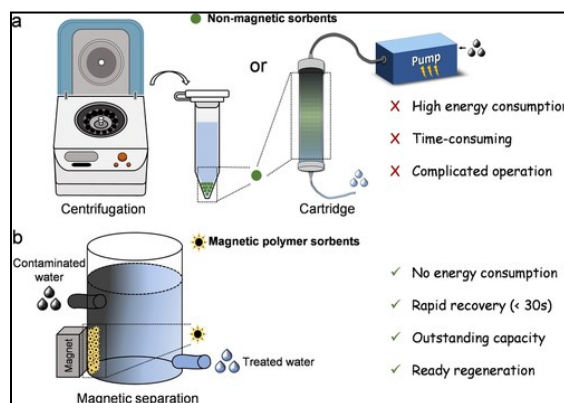
[Xiao Tan](#), [Dr. Pradeep Dewapriya](#), [Dr. Pritesh Prasad](#), [Yixin Chang](#), [Xumin Huang](#), [Yiqing Wang](#), [Xiaokai Gong](#), [Dr. Timothy E. Hopkins](#), [Dr. Changkui Fu](#), [Prof. Kevin V. Thomas](#), [Dr. Hui Peng](#), [Prof. Andrew K. Whittaker](#), [Dr. Cheng Zhang](#)

First published: 12 October 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ange.202213071>

### Abstract

Efficient removal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from contaminated waters is urgently needed to safeguard public and environmental health. In this work, novel magnetic fluorinated polymer sorbents were designed to allow efficient capture of PFAS and fast magnetic recovery of the sorbed material. The new sorbent has superior PFAS removal efficiency compared with the commercially available activated carbon and ion-exchange resins. The removal of the ammonium salt of hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (GenX) reaches >99 % within 30 s, and the estimated sorption capacity was 219 mg g<sup>-1</sup> based on the Langmuir model. Robust and efficient regeneration of the magnetic polymer sorbent was confirmed by the repeated sorption and desorption of GenX over four cycles. The sorption of multiple PFAS in two real contaminated water matrices at an environmentally relevant concentration (1 ppb) shows >95 % removal for the majority of PFAS tested in this study.



### Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the Australian Research Council (DP210101496) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (APP1157440 to C. Z.) for funding of this research. The Chemours Company is acknowledged for providing perfluoropolyether. Dr. Katie Macintosh from Council of the City of Gold Coast is also acknowledged for providing two ground wastewater matrices. The Australian National Fabrication Facility, Queensland Node is acknowledged for access to some items of equipment. Open Access publishing facilitated by The University of Queensland, as part of the Wiley - The University of Queensland agreement via the Council of Australian University Librarians.



We would love to hear from you and share your news with fellow scientists in the Kalamazoo area! Send your news and events to newsletter editor Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) by the end of the month in order to get it in next month's newsletter!



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March 2023

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Vol. 13, Issue 3

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*Chem Club at Chemistry Day at the Museum: SLIME Activity*

## WMU Chem Club Has Successful Semester

By Abigail Maletta

**2023 Chem Club President**

The Chem Club at Western Michigan University has had a very successful semester: Starting in the Fall we have participated in many community events such as Chemistry Day at the Museum, STEM Nights at local schools, and an industry visit to Forensic Fluids Laboratory.

Club events such as tie-dyeing and chemistry-themed bingo nights have been a fun way to increase membership! Our next big event is to help with Science Olympiad, which will be held this March.

We have increased our membership significantly since COVID and are looking forward to more in-person community events and volunteer opportunities.

The WMU Chem Club extends its thanks and good wishes to graduating E-board (Executive Board) members Abigail Maletta, President, and Jack Lyons, Vice-President—Abigail is continuing her education at WMU for a MS in Chemical Engineering (while working at Pfizer), and Jack Lyons is looking at graduate schools to further his studies in Chemistry!



*Chem Club presenting at Paramount Charter Academy STEM night: P-V-T Demo*



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# ‘Where Are You Going With Your Chemistry?’ ACS President Addresses Section

By Ed Thomas

Dr. Judith C. Giordan, 2023 President of the ACS, and active ACS volunteer over her many years as a member, addressed the KACS section on Wednesday, February 22. Over 14 local members and nearly 15 students from Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College participated in the Zoom meeting.

Judy enthusiastically started the session off by encouraging participation from attendees and focusing on the large number of students present. She highlighted science heroes—Pasteur and Edison—and quoted Nelson Mandela, to challenge students to find out how each of them could shine.

She then became more specific and asked everyone on the call, “Where are you going with your chemistry?” Individuals responded with concerns about fitting into industry, the lack of trust in science and the lack of participation by local members. She listened, fleshed out the concerns and added her support. She, too, had similar concerns. Others highlighted their “hopes and wants” from chemistry: Students would like to get a job in industry and others would like to improve our chemistry education programs in our schools.

With this dialogue, she challenged us to find our own paths and potential solutions. This led to her plug to look at the ACS more closely. Even though it is a huge organization, as Judy pointed out there are avenues each one of us may follow: improve and excel in our participation within local sections, divisions and committees.

At the close of her presentation Judy highlighted her interests as ACS President. These are focused on improving the public’s trust in science and scientists, highlighting the revived ACS Speakers service, and providing encouragement for Regional Meetings to apply for NeXus grants (<https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/meetings/regional/nexus-2023.pdf>). Judy will be at both ACS meetings—in Indianapolis and in San Francisco—and she encouraged all to attend and make “networking” a priority.

The Zoom participants expressed their warm appreciation for Judy’s talk by a hearty round of applause.

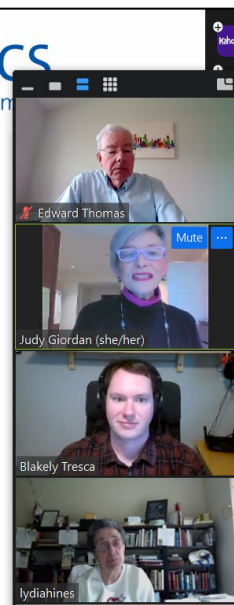


## Why Volunteer??

**Because you are passionate about “it”!**



- Sense of Purpose
- Sense of Community
- Make new friends
- Increase/practice social, leadership and life skills
- Feel good about your self and pay forward...as well as back
- Could bring job prospects and connections
- Learn new things, grow and get out of your comfort zone
- **HAVE FUN!!!!**





## Volunteers Needed to Help Plan ‘Members’ Meeting’ Set for June 24

KACS members! Our Executive Committee has committed to hosting a members’ meeting on **Saturday, June 24**, at the Oshtemo Township Park at 7275 West Main Street in Oshtemo. **We need volunteers** to help organize and conduct the event. We view the meeting, starting at 4:00 p.m., as a time to socialize outdoors, have members get reacquainted in person, and highlight benefits of the ACS to members and prospective members. Attendees and their families will be treated to a hot dog and hamburger cookout between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.; the meeting will follow the meal. **If this activity is something that interests you**, and you have been looking for a way to increase your involvement, **please volunteer**.



Our **anticipated volunteer needs** are as follows: a few members to volunteer for 2 meetings to plan the agenda for the members’ meeting; a member or two to purchase, store and deliver food and paper goods for the picnic (cost reimbursable by the KACS); and on the day itself, 2 or 3 members to grill the hot dogs and hamburgers and set out the other picnic-type food. More details on final setup and needs will follow in future issues of The KalChemist News. Please contact meeting organizer Ed Thomas ([edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)) to express your interest in helping us make this a successful event.



## Call for Section Award Recipient

Our section is pleased to give The KACS Local Section Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes individuals in our Section “who have selflessly and continuously contributed their time and energy to the service of our section.” (For a list of recipients since its inception in 1989, visit <https://kalamazooacs.org/past-recipients-of-the-kacs-section-award/>) If you have such a person in mind, please send your nomination, along with your rationale for the nomination, to the committee chair, Lydia E.M. Hines, at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) by **April 21**.

## KACS Calendar

### March

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### April

- April 17, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- April 16-22: [Chemists Celebrate Earth Week](#) (CCEW), theme “The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae”

### May

- May 8, Monday, 7 p.m.: KACS Awards Gathering via Zoom. We expect to recognize:
  - ◆ Long-term (50-year/60-year) ACS members in our section
  - ◆ Outstanding College Chemistry graduating seniors from K College and WMU
  - ◆ Outstanding HS Chemistry Students as nominated by their HS Chemistry teachers in our 3 county area
  - ◆ Our three 2022 Project SEED participants
- May 15, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- May 23, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: The 2023 Tourtellotte Lecture will be presented by Prof. Renã A. S. Robinson, Vanderbilt University in The Dalton Theater at Kalamazoo College; her area of research is Alzheimer’s disease and proteomics. *(No talk title yet)*







# The KalChemist News

April 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 4

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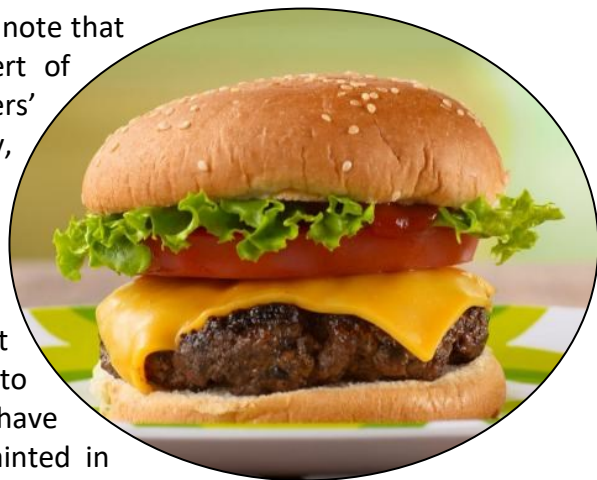
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## Picnic Planned ... Volunteers Needed!

KACS members, please note that this is the second alert of our KACS members' meeting on Saturday, June 24 at the Oshtemo Township Park at 7275 West Main Street. We view the evening starting at 4:00 p.m. as a time to socialize outdoors, to have members get re-acquainted in



person, and to highlight benefits of the ACS to members and other attendees. Members and their families will be treated to a hotdog and hamburger cookout starting at 4:00 p.m.; this will be followed around 5:00 p.m., by the meeting itself. If this is something that interests you and you have been looking for a way to increase your involvement in the KACS, please volunteer.

### Volunteers Still Needed

Thanks are due to those of our members who volunteered to cook and help with logistics on the day of our meeting. Anyone else who would like to help secure supplies, or help with set-up or clean-up would be welcome. We also still need a few members to volunteer for 2 meetings with Ed Thomas to further plan and solidify the agenda for the members' meeting. More details on final setup and needs will follow in a future article. If interested, please contact the meeting organizer, Ed Thomas ([edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com)).

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# Transforming STEM Learning Using Theory and Evidence

The Western Michigan University Department of Chemistry presents Dr. Melanie Cooper, speaking on “Transforming STEM Learning Using Theory and Evidence.”

Dr. Cooper, Lappan-Phillips Professor of Science Education, Department of Chemistry, Michigan State University, will speak on **Monday, April 10, at 4:00 p.m. in 1260 Chemistry at WMU.**

There is a large body of work from the learning sciences providing us with insights into how people learn; and from Discipline Based Education Research (DBER) we know what discipline-specific difficulties students face. However, it is quite surprising that relatively little of this understanding has made its way into the design of science and engineering curricula offered at most colleges and universities.

This presentation will focus on the need for evidence-based curriculum transformations, the research findings that can guide them and how we might assess the results of these transformations. An approach to systemic reform that focuses on helping students use their knowledge in scientifically meaningful ways, will be discussed. Examples of such curriculum reform efforts “Chemistry, Life, the Universe and Everything” (CLUE) and a subsequent organic chemistry version (OCLUE), will be presented, along with the evidence to support how these transformations impact student learning and course culture. Implications for systemic reform will also be discussed.



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## Annual Awards Gathering Coming

**Reserve May 8, 7:00 p.m. for our 2023 Awards Gathering on ZOOM again this year.**

To attend this gathering please register at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-6tqjgiEtSSwceiyMbaLYSs-WzERVaR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Among those to be recognized will be:

- Five 50-year members and two 60-year members!
- One outstanding College Chemistry graduating senior from Kalamazoo College and one from WMU
- Outstanding HS Chemistry Students as nominated by their HS Chemistry teachers in our section’s three-county area
- Our three 2022 Project SEED participants



## The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae

The theme for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, April 16-22, is “The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae.” If you would like to request copies of a publication (most appropriate for children ages 10-14) pertinent to the theme and provided by the ACS Outreach Office, please contact our CCEW coordinator Lydia E.M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com). These contain descriptions of hands-on activities and may be given to teachers to use in the classroom or to send home, or may be placed in “Little Libraries” in various neighborhoods

# Councilor Summary of Governance Issues and Actions from the ACS Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 27-30

The ACS Council meeting was held in a hybrid manner on March 29, and the Board of Directors meetings were held on March 24-25, 2023.

## Actions of the Council

### Election Results:

#### Candidates for President-Elect, 2024

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2023: Mary K. Engelman, Dorothy J. Phillips, and Florian J. Schattenmann. The fourth nominee withdrew for personal reasons prior to the Council meeting. By electronic ballot, **the Council selected Dorothy J. Phillips and Florian J. Schattenmann as candidates for 2024 President-Elect.** These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall 2023 National Election.

### Other Council Actions

#### Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Council Policy Committee to **authorize CPC to review the conduct of Councilors.**
- As required by the ACS Governing Documents, CPC has set the divisor for Local Section and Division representation at Council for the period 2024-2027. The formula is based on membership numbers as of December 31, 2022. **Notification will be sent by the Secretary to all affected units by May 1, with details on how they will be impacted.**
- CPC reviewed the Councilor Expense Program and voted to approve a streamlined process for fall 2023. The committee also voted to review further streamlining options for the program going forward.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the



- Committee on Environmental Improvement to **change the name of the committee to the Committee on Environment and Sustainability.**
- ConC announced that the opening of the online preference form to all ACS members begins on April 3 and will run through July 3. Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2024 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](http://CMTE.acs.org) to complete their preferences.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Add **Plan B to Council Meetings, which authorizes the postponement of voting at Council in case of technology failures or natural disasters.**
- N&E reminded Councilors that any petition candidates to ACS National Office must be certified by the July 15 deadline to be placed on the ballot this fall.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), Council approved the 2024 Schedule of Membership.
- The Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) announced **the launch of the ACS Speaker Directory ([www.acs.org/speakerdirectory](http://www.acs.org/speakerdirectory))**, a new resource for our component group leaders to access (using their ACS ID) a wide range of speakers for their in-person, hybrid, and asynchronous events. The Officer Insights newsletter will be renamed the **Local Section Officer Insights** so that local section officers will be sure to read it.

Continued on page 4

## Council Special Discussion

President Judy Giordan introduced and led a special discussion on the ongoing review of Society Committees. She sought Councilor input of positive ideas, key issues, and opportunities to improve the structure of committees.

Four specific prompts were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:

1. Ideally, for ACS to have a committee structure that is forward thinking and able to address opportunities for members, ACS and the chemistry enterprise, we would...
2. Current and future key issues impacting ACS, the chemistry enterprise and our committees include...
3. I wonder what the positive impact on committees, member involvement, and ACS would be if we were to...
4. I wish that committees at ACS could...

Councilors provided their ideas and thoughts, and relevant Society units will receive this input within the next several weeks.

As of March 29, attendance at the spring 2023 hybrid meeting was as follows: there were **12,623 registrations (10,792 in-person and 1,831 virtual).**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session (March 24-25, 2023)

Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR), the Board approved recommendations for establishing The David A. Evans Award for the Advancement and Education of Organic Synthesis, the 2024 Othmer Gold Medal nominee, and the screened lists of five nominees each for the 2024 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS and the 2024 Priestley Medal.

The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation provided an update on their **efforts to add an International District Director to the Board of Directors in the form of the *Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors***, which was considered by the Council at the spring meeting.

## Other Society Business

The Board held general discussions on two topics. The first focused on raising items of strategic concern from members of the Board, and the second was dedicated to sharing feedback received from ACS members, elevating their voices to all Board members.

---

## KACS Calendar

### April

- April 17, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- April 16-22: [Chemists Celebrate Earth Week](#) (CCEW), theme "The Curious Chemistry of Amazing Algae"

### May

- May 8, Monday, 7 p.m.: KACS Awards Gathering via [Zoom](#)
- May 15, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- May 23, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: The 2023 Tourtellotte Lecture will be presented by Prof. Renã A. S. Robinson, Vanderbilt University, in The Dalton Theater at Kalamazoo College; her area of research is Alzheimer's disease and proteomics. (*No talk title yet*)

### June

- June 19, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- June 24, Saturday, 4-8 p.m.: Member meeting, Oshtemo Park



We would love to hear from you and share your news with fellow scientists in the Kalamazoo area! Send your news and events to newsletter editor Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwhgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwhgh@gmail.com) by the end of the month in order to get it in next month's newsletter!





# The KalChemist News

May 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 5

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Plans Science Night**  
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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Mr. Benjamin S. Maxey  
[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Past-Chair

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

### Chair-Elect

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[dmondal@iu.edu](mailto:dmondal@iu.edu)

### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

### Treasurer

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### Councilor

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

### Alternate Councilor

Dr. Tomasz Respondek  
[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)

## Member Meeting in Less Than Two Months!

KACS members, we are less than 50 days from our KACS members' meeting on Saturday, June 24, at the Oshtemo Township Park at 7275 West Main Street, Oshtemo. We view the meeting from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. as a time to socialize outdoors, have



members get reacquainted in person, and highlight benefits of the ACS to members and prospective members. Members, their families, and your guests who might be interested in joining KACS, will be treated to pizza and a hotdog- and hamburger cookout between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., to be followed by the meeting itself. If this is something that interests you and you have been looking for a way to increase your involvement, please join us. To ensure an accurate count of attendees for food and supplies you must **register at Eventbrite by June 21**: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kacs-spring-2023-members-meeting-tickets-620039443667>.

### Agenda

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome and picnic
- 5:00 p.m. Meeting call to order and chair remarks
- 5:05 p.m. Introduction of executive committee and chairs
- 5:20 p.m. Key activities accomplished and planned for in 2023
- 5:30 p.m. Benefits of Joining ACS/KACS
- 5:40 p.m. Members Survey and Feedback
- 6:00 p.m. Close of meeting

### Volunteers Needed

Thanks to our members who volunteered to cook and help with logistics on the day of our meeting. Anyone else who would like to help secure supplies, or help with set-up or clean-up would be welcome. We will need tables for serving and coolers for that day. If you can help or have any questions, please contact the meeting organizer Ed Thomas at [edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com).



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GET REACQUAINTED IN PERSON  
AND LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF JOINING KACS!



## Awards Gathering Information

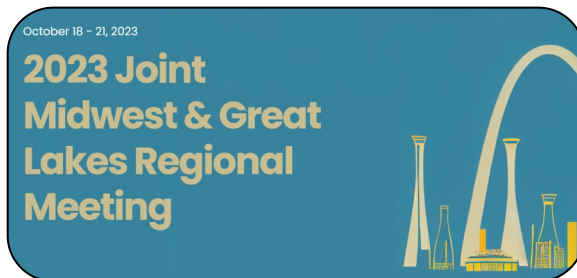
Our 2023 Awards Gathering will be held on the ZOOM platform again this year, at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 8; I am pleased to let you know that as of May 1, there were 31 registrants; the list includes student awardees, some of the nominating teachers, KACS members - including three of our 50-year members - and others who have contributed to the students' interest in chemistry over the years.

## Looking Ahead to GLRM

The Kalamazoo Section of the ACS (KACS) is one of 20 local sections in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of the ACS; we offer Regional meetings every other

year. Some of these meetings are hosted by one section, while others are organized in collaboration either with a section either within our GLR or with a section in an adjacent Region. Our 2023 Regional meeting is being cohosted by the East Central Illinois Section (GLR) and the St. Louis Section (Midwest Region), hence its name and abbreviation: **2023 Joint Midwest – Great Lakes Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (MWGLRM 2023)**

It will be held from Wednesday to Saturday, October 18-21, 2023, in St. Louis, Missouri. The venue will be the St. Charles Convention Center. The theme of the meeting is **Scale Up Your STEM**, and will feature a program designed to energize you to take your pursuits to the next level. MWGLRM 2023 will provide a full range of technical symposia on the latest scientific research, poster sessions highlighting student research, workshops designed by, and for, high school chemistry teachers, an Exposition, an Awards Banquet, and much more! Abstract submission will open in the Spring of 2023. For updates please visit the website <https://www.acs.org/meetings/regional/midwest.html>.



## Tourtellotte Lecture To Focus On Alzheimer's Research

Dr. Renã A.S. Robinson will present the 2023 Tourtellotte Lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, in 103 Dewing Hall, Kalamazoo College. The lecture is titled "High-throughput 'Omics to Advance Equity in Alzheimer's Disease" and is sponsored by the Kalamazoo College Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. A reception will follow at 8 p.m.

Dr. Robinson is Professor of Chemistry and Dorothy J. Wingfield Phillips Chancellor's Faculty Fellow at Vanderbilt University. Her group specializes in developing novel proteomics approaches involving mass spectrometry and using these technologies to understand the molecular basis of health disparities in Alzheimer's disease and sepsis. For more information about Dr. Robinson and her research, visit the [Robinson Lab website](#).



# RASR Laboratory

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN AGING AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

# Kalamazoo College Chemistry Club Gets Involved In The Community

By Carter Eisenbach

The Kalamazoo College Chemistry Club has been involved with several volunteer events in the community this year: In the fall, we were part of Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum demonstrating Elephant's Toothpaste on the live stage for the kids and their families. We also held a booth for STEAM Night at the Air Zoo for Portage schools where we demonstrated cabbage water's vibrant colors as a pH indicator; students were involved in hands-on learning to test the pH of common household items. In the winter, we hosted a collaboration with other STEM-based student clubs to meet and socialize with students across the science and math disciplines; we had food, games, and got to inform others about opportunities to be involved with the science community. We also demonstrated the polymer chemistry of homemade slime and Oobleck to the students at Parchment Elementary during their science fair. This spring, we hope to create a science-themed escape room for students and to participate in a family science night at Kalamazoo College with future scientists! (See description below and in the Calendar for May 18)



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## Science Surrounds Us!

You're invited to a **Family Science Night** at the Dow Science Building at Kalamazoo College (1200 Academy St. Kalamazoo, MI) on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We are so excited to explore science with K-12 students and their families. Join us for hands-on science booths designed and run by our science undergraduate students at Kalamazoo College. This year's theme will focus on science in our daily lives, especially in our environment during the spring and summer seasons! Admission and parking are free. Contact Dr. Josie Mitchell ([Josephine.Mitchell@kzoo.edu](mailto:Josephine.Mitchell@kzoo.edu)) if you have questions.

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## KACS Calendar

### May

- May 8, Monday, 7 p.m.: KACS Awards Gathering via [Zoom](#)
- May 15, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- May 18, Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Family Science Night, Dow Science Building, Kalamazoo College; contact [Dr. Josie Mitchell](#)
- May 23, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: The 2023 Tourtellotte Lecture, Dalton Theater, Kalamazoo College. Prof. Renā A. S. Robinson, Vanderbilt University, will present "High-throughput 'Omics to Advance Equity in Alzheimer's Disease."

### June

- June 19, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](#)
- June 24, Saturday, 4-8 p.m.: Member meeting, Oshtemo Park

### July

- No meetings, no activities

### August

- August 13-17: [Fall ACS meeting](#), San Francisco; theme: "Harnessing the POWER of Data"; hybrid format
- August 21, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)





# The KalChemist News

June 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 6

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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

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[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

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## Last Call for Sign-Up ... Members' Meeting and Picnic

By Ed Thomas

KACS members, please join us for our **KACS members' meeting** on **Saturday, June 24** at the **Oshtemo Township Park** at 7275 West Main Street. We view the meeting, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., as a time to socialize outdoors, have members get



reacquainted in person, and highlight benefits of the ACS to members and prospective members. Members, their families and your guests, who might be interested in joining KACS, will be treated to pizza and a hotdog and hamburger cookout between 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., to be followed by the meeting itself. If this is something that interests you and you have been looking for a way to increase your involvement, please join us. To ensure an accurate count of attendees for food and supplies you must **register at Eventbrite by June 21**: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kacs-spring-2023-members-meeting-tickets-620039443667>. For any questions, or to offer your help, please contact the meeting organizer Ed Thomas at [edwardwthomas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardwthomas@gmail.com).

KACS Members' Meeting  
Oshtemo Township Park  
7275 W. Main St., Kalamazoo  
Saturday, June 24, 2023

### Agenda

4:00 PM	Welcome and picnic
5:00 PM	Meeting call to order and chair remarks
5:05 PM	Introduction of executive committee and chairs
5:20 PM	Key activities accomplished and planned for in 2023
5:30 PM	Benefits of Joining ACS/KACS
5:40 PM	Members Survey and Feedback
6:00 PM	Close of meeting



## 50th KACS Awards Gathering Hard Work and Positive Disposition Rewarded!

Twenty-six individuals signed on to the ZOOM platform on Monday, May 8, for our Section's **50<sup>th</sup> Awards Gathering**. Though the format has changed over the years there is expectation that the next gathering will be "in person" once again.

Though participation on ZOOM does not require travel to a location or parking, etc., we miss the opportunity to speak individually with each awardee to encourage the enviable work ethic, shown to this point, to continue to make a positive change in their world - which usually includes further study and exploration of math and science, as educators, or in industry, or in journalism ....

The turnout for the meeting was very encouraging: we had 100% participation from our College Awardees, 9/11 nominated Outstanding Chemistry Students present, along with a parent and some teachers, as well as 2/3 of our 2022 Project SEED participants!

At our Gathering we also recognize members of our Section who have been ACS members for **60** and **50** years (we had 2 and 5, respectively, in 2023), as well as a member identified as having given exceptional service to our section "above and beyond" (a full list of awardees since the inception of the Meritorious Service Award in 1989 may be found at [kalamazooacs.org/past-recipients-of-the-kacs-section-award/](http://kalamazooacs.org/past-recipients-of-the-kacs-section-award/))

In addition to the full program for the Gathering – **congratulate any of these folks that you know** – below is a picture, courtesy of Sheryl Loux, one of the 3 50-year members who "attended" our gathering.



Edward Thomas, Sheryl Loux, Ronald Gammill

*2023 is the fiftieth year the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society has recognized Outstanding Students in Chemistry. The purpose of this program is to acknowledge and encourage academic excellence. It is the fond expectation of the Kalamazoo Section that this recognition will stimulate a continuing interest in science, and by so doing provide to these students – regardless of their ultimate area of study – the knowledge necessary for the thoughtful evaluation of the many issues in science and technology now facing our society.*

# Awards Program

2023

## *Hosts*

Benjamin S. Maxey  
Lydia E. M. Hines

## *Sixty-year Members*

Frederick Antosz  
Charles M. Hall

## *Fifty-year Members*

Ronald B. Gammill  
Sheryl J. Loux  
Edward W. Thomas  
Shri C. Valvani  
Peter G M Wuts

## *Kalamazoo Section Meritorious Service Award*

Edward W. Thomas

## *Outstanding High School Chemistry Students*

*Bloomington High School*  
Victor K. Armijo

*Comstock High School*  
Teegan Hagenbuch

*Gull Lake High School*  
Ava Erdmann

*Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center*  
Alejandro Alvarez

*Kalamazoo Central High School*  
Ritika Verma

*Mattawan High School*  
Mariah Hernandez

*Parchment High School*  
Marques Glover

*Plainwell High School*  
Isabelle DeLaet

*Portage Central High School*  
Quinn Winkler

*Portage Northern High School*  
Dustin Briggs

*Wayland Union High School*  
Hailey Bancino

## *Outstanding College Graduating Seniors*

*Kalamazoo College*  
Carter Eisenbach and Miaflora Tucci

*Western Michigan University*  
Karli Boer

## *2022 Project SEED participants*

Alejandro Alvarez  
(mentor: David Bolliet, Kalsec)

Eddie Anderson  
(mentor: Joe Chemler, Kalsec)

Sadaya Hamby  
(mentor: Dwight Williams,  
Kalamazoo College)

# Chemistry Day at the Museum—Save the Date!

By Hershel Jude

Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will be held **in person on October 14, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m.** Get ready to educate, entertain, and entice the next generation to the wonders of chemistry and watch the smiles form on the faces of children and adults alike! The topic of 2023 National Chemistry Week is **Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry**.

Do you have a great and safe experiment you can share with an audience of participants of any age, from elementary through adult? Are you interested in demonstrating one of several experiments that are performed and enjoyed every year at this event? Do you have no idea what this event is about but are willing to contribute a few hours of your time on a Saturday in October to brighten the day of young, possibly-aspiring scientists in our community? **We need your help to make this event a success.** If you are willing to participate, please email [Hershel Jude](mailto:Hershel.Jude@kalamazoovalleymuseum.org).



## Encouragement to Attend Regional Meetings

Regional Meetings offer an affordable opportunity for students **to gain experience with research presentation skills** before peers and faculty at universities in the area of the meeting, **to network** and **to travel more affordably** to cities which are not as distant from their location; overall these meetings are not as intimidating as the very large national meetings offered by ACS; they usually have an exposition to which all are invited and at which company representatives may offer opportunities for one-on-one encouragement to consider available jobs. There often are sessions offered on career counseling and resume' review with ACS volunteers who are more than happy to assist.

One such opportunity will be available in Central Regional Meeting in the Detroit area in June; another will be the Joint Midwest/Great Lakes Regional Meeting offered in the St. Louis, Missouri, area in October (18-21) by the Great Lakes Region (of which the Kalamazoo Section is a part) in cooperation with the Midwest Region. The **abstract deadline for the Joint Regional Meeting in October is Monday, July 17, 2023** Website: <https://mwrn2023.org/?c=230524> **em abstract mtg regmtg MWGLRM2023**

It would be wise to consider attendance at either or both of these meetings (information about CERM is given below in the June Calendar). [For information regarding the various Regions of ACS see <https://kalamazooacs.org/the-great-lakes-region/>]

## KACS Calendar

### June

- June 19, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Ben Maxey](mailto:Ben.Maxey@kalamazooacs.org)
- June 20-23, Tuesday—Friday, [Central Regional Meeting](https://www.kalamazooacs.org/central-regional-meeting), Detroit, MI
- June 24, Saturday, 4-8 p.m.: Member meeting/picnic, Oshtemo Park. Sign up [here](https://www.kalamazooacs.org/central-regional-meeting).

### July

- No KACS meetings, no activities

### August

- August 13-17: [Fall ACS meeting](https://www.kalamazooacs.org/fall-acsc-meeting), San Francisco; theme: "Harnessing the POWER of Data"; hybrid format
- August 21, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](mailto:Dr.DibyenduMondal@kalamazooacs.org)

### September

- September 18, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](mailto:Dr.DibyenduMondal@kalamazooacs.org)





# The KalChemist News

August 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 7

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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

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## Chem Lab Mascot 'Bippy' Making K Famous



A Squishmallow named "Bippy," the lab mascot of Kalamazoo College Assistant Professor of Chemistry Daniela Arias-Rotondo, is helping K to gain recognition and students to gain opportunities in their field. Read more [here!](#)

## Multi-Year Member-Recognition-Certificate Deliveries Another Wonderful Experience

On Saturday, June 3, Lydia Hines had a great "trip down memory lane" with Ron Gammill (former Upjohn colleague) when she delivered his 50-year certificate to him; and then on Saturday, June 10, Ben Maxey, KACS now past-chair, and Lydia Hines, councilor, visited with 4 of our remaining 6 recipients of 50- and 60- year recognition certificates (Peter Wuts, Sheryl Loux, Fred Antosz, Charles Hall). What a wonderful day, and how delightful it was to see and hear that they are all well and were appreciative of being remembered; we [Ben and Lydia] visited with the wife of one of the recipients (Ed Thomas) because he was out on the golf course ☺; and the one with whom we were unable to meet at all on that day (Shri Valvani) wrote to thank us for delivering his certificate and reported that he, too, continues active in his retirement.

At our ZOOM Awards gathering in May Ed Thomas was named our section's 2023 Meritorious Service Award recipient. In the picture at right he is shown receiving his recognition plaque from Lydia E. M. Hines at the June members' meeting, which he helped to organize and execute on June 24.





# Socializing, Information Gathering at June Picnic Meeting

By Ed Thomas

On June 24, the KACS member meeting was convened at Oshtemo Township Park. Over 20 members and guests enjoyed a social hour and picnic of pizza, hotdogs, and hamburgers under the shade of the pavilion.



Dibyendu Mondal, our new chair, called the meeting to order and provided introductory remarks. He then introduced Lydia Hines, Councilor; Ed Thomas, Past-Chair; and Doug Williams, Treasurer and Project SEED Coordinator. They spoke of their responsibilities and the enjoyment they receive from participating in the local section. Lydia then outlined the key accomplishments and planned activities for the Section in 2023 (more details can be found in this year's newsletter articles which are found on our website, [kalamazooacs.org](http://kalamazooacs.org)). Doug spoke to the benefits of local and national membership. Some were surprised that

ACS provides life insurance. Students were advised that National ACS has a wealth of informational resources for chemistry careers, both traditional and non-traditional, and that the local ACS section is a great place to practice leadership skills.

During the feedback session, Dibyendu learned that students are interested in networking with businesses and employers through KACS. They also desire ways to accrue volunteer hours through outreach opportunities. Attendees also mentioned they do not care for ZOOM meetings anymore.

The event hit the highpoints for in-person socializing and information gathering. We thank Mike Kiella and Bill Schinzer for being our expert grillmasters.



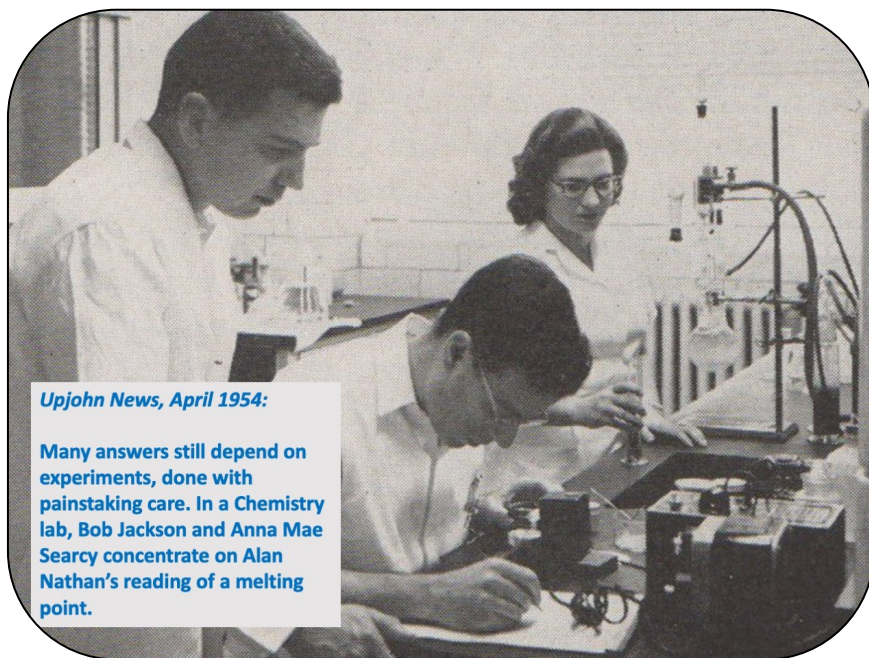


## Tribute to a Local Chemistry Legend

We are pleased to include in this issue of *The KalChemist News* the following tribute to a local “chemistry legend,” sent by former KACS chair (2018, 2019) Steve Seceast; as recently as 2019 Anna Mae Searcy made a significant contribution to our 2019 National Historical Chemical Landmark Program (for further information about the NHCL visit our [archived May 2019 newsletter](#) starting on page 61.

“On May 26, 2023, Kalamazoo chemist Anna Mae Searcy Miller, at 98 years old ‘made the quantum leap to the next orbital.’ We had the opportunity to work with Anna in 2019 on our KACS National Historical Chemical Landmark project.

Anna contributed to the successful ACS Historical Landmark designation, providing photos, reference papers and stories from her 1950’s work as part of The Upjohn Company’s steroid chemistry program.



“Best of all Anna starred in a video we made as part of the Landmark project. The video is posted on YouTube [here](#). Anna's part of the video runs during 18:42-32:27 minutes. Watching (or re-watching) Anna’s video is highly recommended. She’s a very cool person and chemist who will be missed.”

Anna’s obituary is posted [here](#); it presents an interesting historical narrative.

More on the Kalamazoo National Historical Chemistry Landmark project is available on the ACS webpage [here](#).

## Our Sincere Condolences

We extend sincere condolences to the family of Roger G. Williams, a 57-year ACS member who retired after a full career as an Analytical Chemist at The Upjohn Company and Pfizer; quiet and unassuming, he enjoyed attending those KACS events where he could meet with former colleagues as well as where he could be an encourager to young aspiring chemists, such as our Awards gathering and the SEED poster sessions. His obituary is available [here](#).





Project SEED fellows were treated to an R&D lab tour at Zoetis on July 19. From left to right: Dr. Tomasz Respondek (tour coordinator), Alejandro Alvarez, Jocelyn Suranyi, Benjamin Knight, Eddie Anderson, Sadaya Hamby, Reem Rasool.

## Project SEED Introductions and Poster Session Invitation

We are getting ready to wrap up a busy summer of research with our 2023 class of Project SEED fellows. Special thanks to our research mentors at Kalamazoo College and Kalsec. These scientists donate time, supplies, expertise and lots of heart to our fellows. We are also grateful to Zoetis for hosting an inspiring tour of their R&D labs for organic synthesis, process chemistry, molecular modeling, parasitology and entomology (mosquitoes!). We learned that Zoetis is an exciting and friendly place to work.

You are invited to join us when our Project SEED fellows present their research at the Kalamazoo College Summer Research Symposium on Friday, August 25. Please watch your email for additional details later this month. Thank you as always to those who generously support our program. The Kalamazoo Local Section spends \$2,000 for each student in our program. 100% of all member donations are used directly for student stipends. Please see our [website](#) for more information.

*Doug Williams – KACS Project SEED Coordinator*

### Meet our 2023 Project SEED Fellows

#### ***Ben Knight***

I'm excited to be a part of the ACS project SEED program. I am 17 years old and will be a senior at Portage Northern high school this year. I've been interested in chemistry ever since Pfizer made the covid vaccine. I was amazed when I saw the things that are possible with chemistry. This summer I am working under Dr. Drew Elder researching rosemary extract that was extracted with super critical CO<sub>2</sub>. We are trying to create a naturally extracted rosemary oleoresin to allow Kalsec to compete in the green market. Outside of chemistry I enjoy running cross-country, hanging out with friends, and listening to music. The Project SEED as been a very valuable experience for me, I've been able to work in an industry lab, see how a company runs, and gain knowledge in an aspect of chemistry that I've never given much thought. Everyone at Kalsec has been extremely helpful during my time here. They are always willing to answer questions and give advice. I would recommend that future Project SEED participants say yes to any opportunity that comes their way. Every experience that you have during your internship is a valuable one even if it might be something that doesn't sound interesting to you. Experience leads to knowledge and knowledge is a powerful thing.



### ***Jocelyn Suranyi***

I will be going into my senior year at Bloomingdale High School. My chemistry teacher, Mr. Chris Bily, introduced me to and encouraged me to sign up for Project SEED, despite the distance. I'm forever thankful that he did, otherwise I wouldn't have had this wonderful opportunity. I've always been interested in science, but I never really considered it a good career option for me until I took chemistry. Outside of chemistry, I also enjoy writing, reading, embroidery, playing music, and color guard. I am working with Dr. Blakely Tresca at Kalamazoo College. The goal of my project is to use computational data to find the most likely and stable structure of five different peptoids. I appreciate how patient and kind everyone is when answering questions, as well as how welcoming they are. Some advice that I would give to future Project SEED participants is to ask questions and don't worry too much. You're here to learn, and it's alright if you have a bunch of questions on your first day. My current plan after high school is to get a Bachelor's degree in chemistry at Kalamazoo College. I plan on going into forensic toxicology once I graduate. This opportunity has helped me learn and grow in so many different ways, and I'm thankful that I could be part of this program.

### ***Alejandro Alvarez***

I am a returning intern to Kalsec Inc. this year working with David Bolliet. I am working on a model to analyze GC-MS data and determine the essential oils that make up different blends. Outside of work and school, I play lots and lots of chess and garden. During my time at Project SEED these past few years I have learned a lot about all kinds of different analytical machines such as GC-MS, GC-FID, and GC-O, which people usually do not see until college. During my time at Kalsec, I have met and spoken to great people in a variety of professions including color chemistry and engineering. This fall, I will be attending Northwestern University to study Chemical or Electrical Engineering. My academic interests include robotics, computer programming, and nuclear physics. I also plan to attend some sort of graduate school in the future for a PhD.

### ***Eddie Anderson***

I am going into my senior year of high school. This is my second year with Project SEED. This year I am working at Kalsec on a project to purify an antimicrobial compound found in fungus. Being in Project SEED has been a transformative experience. It has not only provided a unique opportunity to understand the intriguing world of chemistry but has also been a platform for personal exploration and growth. Despite the challenges I have faced in life, this program has shown me that our background should not limit our potential. I encourage Project SEED students to take full advantage of the hands-on experiments and skilled mentorship from passionate scientists. You will gain valuable knowledge and skills that will motivate you for scientific exploration. The program can help open doors to higher education and career opportunities. As I pursue my dreams of using chemistry to mitigate our climate crisis, I am grateful to Project SEED and ACS for supporting my access to quality education in the scientific field. In my free time I play music, run track and practice graphic design.

### ***Sadaya Hamby***

Sadaya begins her senior year at Kalamazoo Central High School this fall. Last year, she worked with Prof. Dwight Williams at Kalamazoo College on the synthesis of novel anti-microbial compounds. This year she returned to work with Dr. Williams to continue these studies and deepen her understanding of this research area. Sadaya would like to pursue studies after high school in medicine and/or scientific research. She is a member of Jeter's Leaders.

### ***Reem Rasool***

Reem begins her senior year at Kalamazoo Central High School this fall. She is working in the group of Prof. Dwight Williams at Kalamazoo College on the synthesis of novel anti-microbial compounds. It is her first year in Project SEED. Reem is inspired by her parents who work in science and technology fields. She enjoys taking advanced classes in school and has a passion for helping others, potentially through her current interest in health-sciences.

# THE HEALING POWER OF CHEMISTRY

## Chemistry Day at the Museum—Call for Volunteers

By Hershel Jude

Though National Chemistry Week (NCW) each year is formally scheduled for the third full week in October (in 2023 that is October 15-21), **our Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will be held in person on October 14, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m.** Get ready to educate, entertain, and entice the next generation to the wonders of chemistry and watch the smiles form on the faces of children and adults alike! The **2023 NCW** topic is Health and Medicine, and the **theme is “The Healing Power of Chemistry.”**

Do you have a great experiment you can share with an audience of any age from elementary through adults? Are you interested in demonstrating one of several experiments that are performed every year at this event? Do you have no idea what this event is about but are willing to contribute a few hours of your time on a Saturday in October to brighten the day of young scientists in our community? We need your help to make this event a success. If you are willing to lead a demonstration for Chemistry Day 2023, please email [Hershel Jude](mailto:Hershel.Jude@kvm.org) and/or [Carol Guerrero Kercher](mailto:Carol.GuerreroKercher@kvm.org).



With Annette Hoppenworth’s retirement from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum I am fortunate to be working with a great team from KVM: Carol Guerrero Kercher, Lexie Schroeder Kobb, and Stephanie Willoughby. Carol is the STEM Program Coordinator at KVM. An active member of the ACS, she brings extensive experience in chemistry education and outreach to her new role. Lexie is the Assistant Director at KVM; her educational programming knowledge and demonstrated leadership helped shape the successful collaboration with the KACS for the 2022 Chemistry Day program. Stephanie is a Program Coordinator at KVM with experience working with children and volunteers and a proven track record of successful programs. The Chemistry Day program planning committee is excited about this year’s celebration of chemistry and is looking forward to working with the volunteers.

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## Speed Networking Returns

By Blakely Tresca

Speed Networking is returning for the 7<sup>th</sup> year on Monday, October 2, co-sponsored by Kalamazoo ACS and Kalamazoo College. Join us at 6 p.m. on ZOOM for five rounds of short discussions on careers and navigating life as a professional chemist. Registration for students and mentors is open now at <http://bit.ly/KACSSpeedNet>. **Professional chemists from industry and academia are invited to sign up as mentors. We need your help, as this event can’t happen without you!** Sign up early as space may be limited, and priority will be given to early registrants. Undergraduate students, this is your chance to meet with professionals from across the chemical enterprise and ask what it takes to get the positions you want. In addition to break-out sessions, we will hear from past attendees how mentorship has shaped their careers and a short keynote presentation on tips for a successful career in industrial chemistry. We will continue to use ZOOM for the event as students and mentors beyond the immediate Kalamazoo area are able to join in this way.

# Mark Your Calendar for Bell's Event

## By Tomasz Respondek

On October 24, 2023, the Kalamazoo section of the American Chemical Society (KACS) will host its 11th annual poster session titled "Sustainable Science—Recycle a Poster" at Bell's Eccentric Café in downtown Kalamazoo.

The KACS is pleased to bring back the popular event thanks to a generous grant from Zoetis. This year the **keynote speaker will be Kyle Schneider, Ph.D., Director of R&D at Vestaron**. Vestaron is located in Kalamazoo, MI; it is a Peptide Company dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection. The title of Kyle's talk will be provided at a later date. This event is open to the public, so we hope to see both ACS members and the general public.

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## Consider Attending a Regional Meeting!

Consider presenting, and/or register to attend the **Joint Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Meeting (MWGLRM) in the St. Charles Convention Center (in St. Charles, MO) October 18-21 (Wednesday through Saturday) 2023** <https://mwrmm2023.org/>

It is wise to consider attendance at a Regional meeting! Accommodations are less expensive, they are often at more accessible distances, and they offer good opportunities to network with chemists involved in a variety of careers, as well as seminars for development of leadership skills.



The **abstract deadline for the Joint Midwest/Great Lakes Regional meeting is now Monday, August 14** (To submit an abstract please follow instructions at this link:

<https://www.acs.org/meetings/regional/midwest/2023-mwrmm-call-for-abstracts.html>

[For information regarding the 10 Regions within ACS visit <https://kalamazooacs.org/the-great-lakes-region/>]

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## KACS Calendar

### August

- August 13-17: [Fall ACS meeting](#), San Francisco; theme: "Harnessing the POWER of Data"; hybrid format
- August 21, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)
- August 25, Friday: Project SEED fellows present their research at the Kalamazoo College Summer Research Symposium; see article on page 4

### September

- September 18, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)

### October

- October 2, Monday, 6 p.m.: Speed Networking program via Zoom; see article on page 6 and register [here](#).
- October 14, Saturday, noon—4 p.m.: Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum; see article on page 6
- October 16, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)
- October 18-21, Wednesday through Saturday: [Joint Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Meeting \(MWGLRM2023\)](#), St. Charles, MO, "Scale Up Your STEM"; see article above
- October 24, Tuesday: KACS Bell's Event; speaker Dr. Kyle Schneider, Director of R&D, Vestaron Corporation; see article above





# The KalChemist News

September 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 8

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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Past-Chair

Mr. Ben Maxey  
[past.chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:past.chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Chair-Elect

Vacant

### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

### 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. Tomasz Respondek  
[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!  
[@ACSKalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/ACSKalamazoo)

## In Memoriam



The frailty of life came to the fore at the recent San Francisco ACS meeting with the announcement of the unexpected and untimely passing of the newly-hired editor of C&EN, [Mohammed Yahia](#), age 41, as he was *en route* to his first National ACS meeting; he leaves behind a wife and 2 young children. His first and only editorial in *C&EN* appeared in the first August issue (August 7&14) p. 2.



Another loss announced at the council meeting was of [Ned Heindel](#), long-time educator and ACS speaker who presented in Kalamazoo in 2011. Doug Williams and Lydia Hines describe him as “a distinguished teacher, scholar and all-around mentor who valued his relationship with each one he encountered. A remarkable chemist.”

## Chemistry Day at the Museum— 15-20 Volunteers Needed

By Hershel Jude

**October 14, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m.**, the date and time of our **Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum**, is less than 6 weeks away! The topic of this year's National Chemistry Week is **Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry**.



If you are willing to lead a demonstration for Chemistry Day 2023, or to join with others who have offered to lead a demonstration, **please email [Hershel Jude](#) and/or [Carol Guerrero Kercher](#) ASAP**. We still need 15-20 volunteers to lead demos on October 14.

# Speed Networking Scheduled

By Blakely Tresca

Speed Networking is scheduled via ZOOM for Monday, October 2, 2023, 6-7:30 p.m. You need to [register](#) for this event to be a mentor or to be a student participant. This outreach by our section members to our post-  
HS students in Allegan, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties has been evaluated very highly over the years; mentors are as important for this event as are students, so please let us know of your availability SOON!

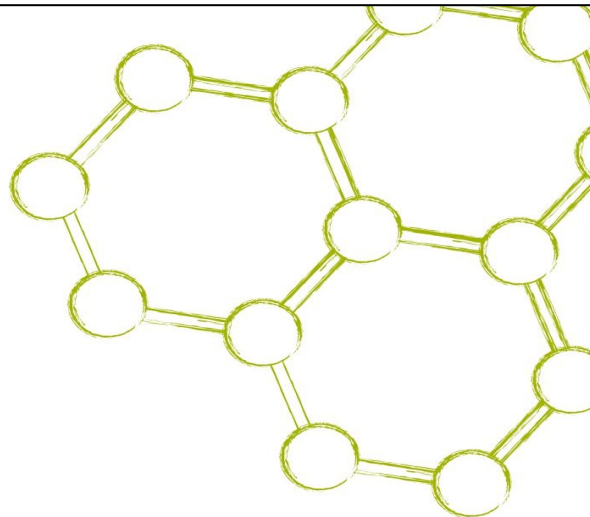
# CHEMISTS: *Grow Your Network*

**October 2nd, 6-7:30 PM  
Virtually Via Zoom**

*Join us for interactive networking fun!*

The Kalamazoo American Chemical Society (KACS) members and students interested in Chemistry are invited to a networking event co-hosted by KACS, Kalamazoo College Chemistry Department, and the Center for Career and Professional Development.

*Whether you are a potential mentor (experienced individual who can advise and guide on potential career paths) OR a student interested in meeting with chemistry professionals, please join us!*



Scan to register  
or visit  
[bit.ly/KACSSpeedNet](https://bit.ly/KACSSpeedNet)

Questions? Please contact:  
Jackie Srodes, [jsrodes@kzoo.edu](mailto:jsrodes@kzoo.edu)  
Blakely Tresca, [Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu](mailto:Blakely.Tresca@kzoo.edu)



KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

**K** CENTER FOR  
CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
*More in Four. More in a Lifetime.*

# Don't Miss the Popular Bell's Event!

**By Tomasz Respondek**

On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. the Kalamazoo section of the American Chemical Society (KACS) will host its 11th annual poster session titled "Sustainable Science - Recycle a Poster" at Bell's Eccentric Café in downtown Kalamazoo.

The KACS is pleased to continue this popular event thanks to a generous grant from Zoetis; this year the keynote speaker will be Kyle Schneider, Ph.D., Director of R&D at Vestaron, located in Kalamazoo, MI. Vestaron is a Peptide Company dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection.

The title of the keynote talk will be "Transforming Crop Protection with Cysteine-Rich Natural Peptides – A Pipeline of Possibilities."

This event is open to the public, so we hope to see both ACS members and the general public.

Newly-prepared or "recycled" posters are welcome from any attendee who wants to present his/her research. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate. [Up to three posters by student presenters who submit their abstract (100-200 words) by Sunday, October 22, will be eligible to enter a drawing for a \$50 cash prize each.]

To reserve an easel for a poster, send an email with the following information to [symposium@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:symposium@kalamazooacs.org) by Sunday, October 22, 2023.

- the poster title
- author list, with the presenter underlined and an asterisk (\*) identifying the lead PI
- institution information
- (an abstract to enter the prize drawing if you are a student)

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## A Greeting From Our 2024 Chair, Dr. Dibyendu Mondal

My name is Dr. Dibyendu Mondal and currently I am working as a Lead Scientist in the biotransformation group of Kalsec. In my role, I am focused on providing innovative and sustainable biomanufacturing solutions to realize Kalsec's goal of nourishing the world.

Academically, I hold a Master's degree in organic chemistry and a Ph.D. in mechanistic enzymology. My post-doc training was in protein engineering through directed evolution.

I was honored to be elected as the 2023 Chair-Elect (and 2024 Chair) of the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society (KACS). My journey as a chair-elect began by attending the 2023 ACS Leadership Institute in Atlanta, GA. I look forward to helping the section achieve its vision of creating awareness of chemistry by organizing local events and activities.

It's a privilege now to serve as chair of the section. The section has a strong history of commitment to increase awareness of chemistry among young people of our community. As a chair I am committed towards continuing its ongoing activities. Along with other members of the Executive



Committee I will work on increasing the number of fellowships that includes Project SEED and travel. Coming from academia I am focused on reviving the High School Competitive exam. We will also try to make arrangements to start an industry visit program for our students.

Best,  
Dibyendu

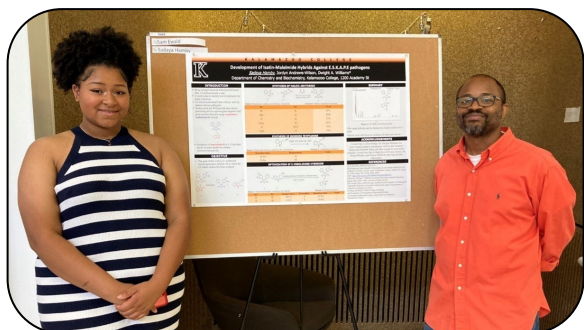


## 2023 Project SEED Presentations

By Doug Williams

On August 25 four of our six 2023 Project SEED fellows presented posters of their summer research on the Kalamazoo College campus. We thank Prof. Dwight Williams (Chemistry, Kalamazoo College) for organizing the event. One of our SEED fellows, Alejandro Alvarez, is heading to Northwestern University to pursue a degree in electrical or chemical engineering. The remaining five students have returned to high school as seniors, as they put finishing touches on their college applications for next year. We had a wonderful time becoming better acquainted with our three returning fellows, Alejandro, Sadaya Hamby, and Eddie Anderson, and getting to know our first-time fellows, Benjamin Knight, Jocelyn Suranyi, and Reem Rasool. Congratulations to all of them for a productive summer.

Thank you to those of our KACS members who have supported this work. This was our largest class of fellows since 1999 when we last sponsored six students at WMU. Watch for additional growth in 2024 as we look for additional mentors and funds to increase our impact. This year, we could accept only half of the qualified applicants. We know that there is more interest and opportunity. Please visit our [Project SEED webpage](#) or contact me directly at [treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org) to learn more about how to help. We cannot do this without you.

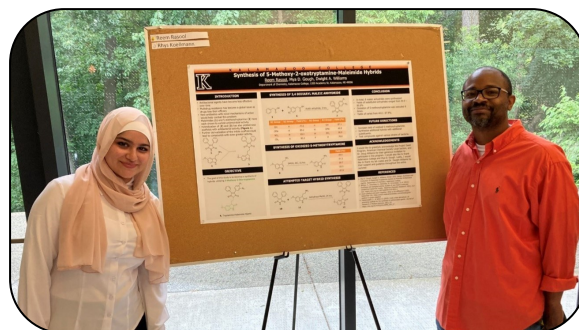


**Sadaya Hamby (Kalamazoo Central HS, senior)**

**Mentor:** Prof. Dwight Williams (Chemistry, Kalamazoo College)

**Project:** Development of isatin-maleimide hybrids against E.S.K.A.P.E. pathogens

**Pictured with:** Prof. Williams

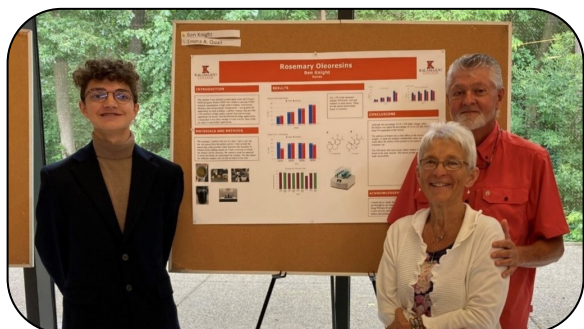


**Reem Rasool (Kalamazoo Central HS, senior)**

**Mentor:** Prof. Dwight Williams (Chemistry, Kalamazoo College)

**Project:** Synthesis of 5-methoxy-2-oxotryptamine-maleimide hybrids

**Pictured with:** Prof. Williams



**Benjamin Knight (Portage Northern HS, senior)**

**Mentor:** Dr. Drew Elder (Kalsec, Inc.)

**Project:** Development of Rosemary Extraction and Purification Techniques

**Pictured with:** grandparents Steve and Joann Knight



**Jocelyn Suranyi (Bloomingdale HS, senior)**

**Mentor:** Prof. Blakely Tresca (Chemistry, Kalamazoo College)

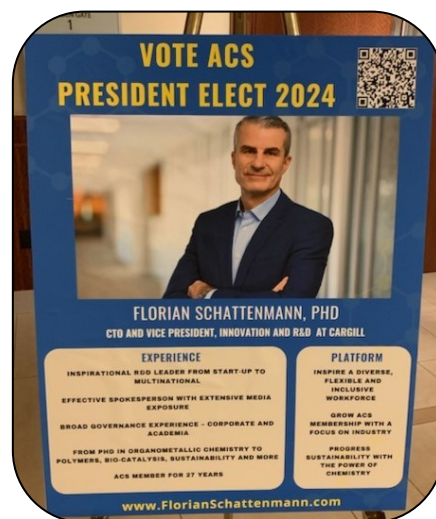
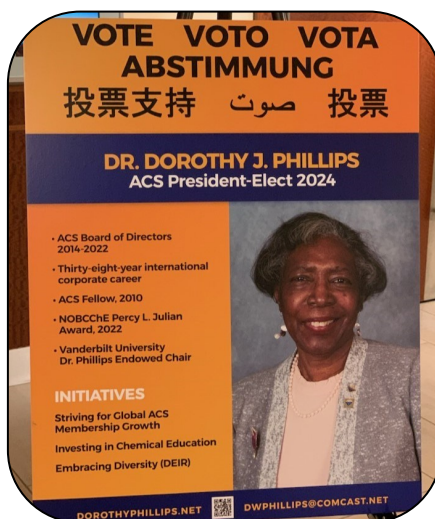
**Project:** Molecular models of peptoid aggregation in virtual reality

**Pictured with:** Prof. Tresca

# Cast Your Ballot for ACS President-Elect

By Lydia E. M. Hines

In **National ACS elections** for President-elect the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) has made an effort to select academic candidates in one year and non-academic candidates the next year. Our President-Elect for 2023 (President for 2024) is Mary Carroll, who is an academic; so the 2 President-elect candidates for 2024, who will appear on the Fall Ballot for election this year, [Dr. Dorothy Phillips](#) and [Dr. Florian Schattenmann](#), are non-academics. At



right are pictures of the Posters which the two candidates set up for attendees at the San Francisco meeting in August; view a short (3-min) video from each candidate at the following links:

[Dr. Dorothy Phillips](#) ▪ [Dr. Florian Schattenmann](#)

Election participation each year is very low; my hope is that **if you are a member** you will consider the information presented and VOTE when you receive your ballot (electronic or paper) as you requested.

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## Short Councilor Report from the San Francisco Fall ACS Meeting

By Lydia E. M. Hines

[The full report will be posted on the KACS website under “Archives”]

- Elections to the three Elected Committees of the Council – the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), the Committee on Committees (ConC) and the Council Policy Committee (CPC) were held. Our KACS Councilor Lydia E. M. Hines was re-elected to a three-year term on CPC.
- Despite National ACS meetings being held in hybrid format, the size of the in-person registration is trending upward; the number of attendees registered in-person in San Francisco was 13,363; those attending online numbered 1,656. Another positive trend is the increasing participation from international sites; participants logged in from 80 such sites.
- There was discussion on possible term limits for councilors, as there are many who choose not to contribute their input to any of the 30+ committees which are available to them for participation. All Committees, except the three Elected Committees, are available to any **member** for his/her participation. <https://www.acs.org/about/governance/committees/preferences-and-appointment-process.html>
- The **ACS Membership now stands at approximately 100,000**. There are an additional ~85,000 non-dues paying “interested individuals” who are NOT ACS members; they are identified as “Community Associates” and receive minimal complimentary benefits from ACS. “Society Affiliates” are yet another category of individuals who do pay dues but are not eligible for membership. [See <https://www.acs.org/membership.html> for more specifics about each category] **PLEASE NOTE:** *Members who do not pay their dues within 60 days of receipt of their renewal reminder notices are removed from the membership rolls and are re-categorized as “Community Associates,” so they are no longer members and therefore are ineligible to vote or to hold office.*
- Membership dues are remaining the same in 2024.

## Election Season is Near for KACS Officers

**Election season** is near for our **KACS officers**. The offices open for election are Secretary (2-year term 2024-5); Chair-elect (1-year term 2025 in a 3-year succession (chair-elect > chair > past-chair)); and Councilor (3-year term 2024-2026).

Jacob Kirkendall has agreed to be nominated for secretary (continuation) and Nicole Burke has agreed to be nominated for chair-elect. Lydia E. M. Hines has agreed to be nominated for councilor (continuation); if elected, this would be her last term as councilor.

Descriptions of responsibilities may be found on our website at <https://kalamazooacs.org/operations-manual/> If **you** desire to be considered for any of the positions mentioned above, please let our secretary know of your interest by contacting [secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org).



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## MiSTEM Chemistry Network Update

### By Doug Williams

Last year's MiSTEM network meetings were a useful new way to engage with our regional high school chemistry teachers. Meetings typically included about 10-12 participants with roughly equal numbers of teachers and chemists. Our four AACT "Science Coach" teachers gave enthusiastic summaries of their work with their coaches, and we capped the year with an outdoor social on June 6 at Thunderbird River Ranch. Survey and in-person responses have encouraged us to continue in 2023-24 with online meetings scheduled from 3-4 p.m. on Sept. 26, Nov. 14, Jan. 23, Mar. 12, and May 14.

We are starting the year by purchasing pH, conductivity, gas pressure, and photometric sensors

that can be used directly for computer data acquisition in high school labs. These sensors will be available to teachers in our section and other SW Michigan counties by reservation from the KRESA Regional Educational Media Center (REMC). KACS thanks Pfizer for matching funds to purchase these tools.

If you are interested in helping motivated high school teachers to challenge and motivate high school chemistry students, please contact one of us below. We would love to add you to the team.

Doug Williams ([treasurer@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:treasurer@kalamazooacs.org))

Carl Stachew ([carl.f.stachew@pfizer.com](mailto:carl.f.stachew@pfizer.com))

Blakely Tresca ([blakely.tresca@kzoo.edu](mailto:blakely.tresca@kzoo.edu))

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## KACS Calendar

### September

- September 18, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)

### October

- October 2, Monday, 6 p.m.: Speed Networking event via Zoom; see article on page 2 and register [here](#).
- October 14, Saturday, noon—4 p.m.: Chemistry Day at the KVM; theme: "Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry"; see article on page 1
- October 16, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)
- October 18-21, Wednesday through Saturday: [Joint Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Meeting \(MWGLRM2023\)](#), St. Charles, MO, "Scale Up Your STEM"
- October 24, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.: KACS Bell's "Recycle a Poster" Event; speaker Dr. Kyle Schneider, Director of R&D at Vestaron Corporation; see article on page 3

### November

- November 20, Monday, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)





# The KalChemist News

October 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Past-Chair

Mr. Ben Maxey  
[past.chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:past.chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Chair-Elect

Vacant

### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

### 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. Tomasz Respondek  
[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)

## THE HEALING POWER OF CHEMISTRY

### An Invitation to Chemistry Day

For the 37th year, The Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society (KACS) invite you to attend **Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry** on October 14, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m.

Exciting hands-on experiments and demonstrations will educate and entertain learners of all ages and abilities. The event aims to increase awareness of the role of chemistry in everyday life, promote a positive image of chemistry, and utilize the museum's exhibits and resources to provide unique learning experiences for members of the community.

The community-wide collaboration includes chemistry enthusiasts from the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Pfizer, Kalsec, Perrigo and Stryker. You won't want to miss this year's celebration of chemistry!

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is an ideal place to showcase this year's National Chemistry Week topic of "Health and Medicine," as the Kalamazoo Direct to You History Gallery is home to the ACS National Historic Chemical Landmark plaque for The Upjohn Company's pioneering work in steroid medicines. More information about the landmark designation can be found at [acs.org/education/whatischemistry/landmarks/upjohn-steroid-medicines.html](http://acs.org/education/whatischemistry/landmarks/upjohn-steroid-medicines.html).

Admission is free both to the event and to the museum, which is located at 230 N. Rose St. in downtown Kalamazoo. Visit [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for more details. The museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



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## Place the Bell's Event on Your Calendars!



Place the Bell's event on your calendars - see posters on the next two pages: one lets you know how, where, and by when to submit a poster (previously-presented, or new); the other informs you about our speaker, Dr. Schneider, who is Director of R&D at Vestaron, a local company which recently "graduated" from the WMed building in the WMU Business and Technology Park to its own location at the KVCC complex on South 9th Street!

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## Election Information—Cast Your Vote!

### 2024 ACS President-Elect

Ballots have gone out to current ACS MEMBERS for the election of the 2024 ACS president-elect; open through October 20. For more information about each of the 2 candidates you may peruse the links given in your ballot materials or you may look at page 5 of our September issue of The KalChemist News.



### 2024 ACS President-Elect

As mentioned in the September issue of our newsletter, ballots (with bios) for our KACS officer election will be going out to MEMBERS by mid-October. The positions open are chair-elect (2024) - two individuals have agreed to the possibility of having their names listed as candidates for that office - Nicole Burke and Joe Chemler; secretary (2024-2025) - Jacob Kirkendall; and councilor (2024-2026) - Lydia E. M. Hines

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## KACS Calendar

### October

- **October 9, Monday**, 4-5 p.m.—Dr. Doug Williams, Department of Chemistry, Western Michigan University: "Stories about the science and regulation of food flavor additives." Location: 1260 Chemistry Building, WMU Campus
- **October 14, Saturday**, noon—4 p.m.: Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum; theme: "Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry"
- **October 16, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)
- **October 18-21, Wednesday through Saturday**: [Joint Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Meeting \(MWGLRM2023\)](#), St. Charles, MO, "Scale Up Your STEM"—website [here](#)
- **October 24, Tuesday**, 5:30 p.m.: KACS Bell's "Recycle a Poster" Event; speaker Dr. Kyle Schneider, Director of R&D at Vestaron; doors open at 5 p.m.

### November

- **November 20, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)

### December

- **December 18, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)



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2023

The **KALAMAZOO** Section of the American Chemical Society presents  
**Sustainable Science – Recycle a Poster**  
**Call for Abstracts**

**Sci-Mix Poster Session on  
October 24, 2023 (5-9pm)  
Bell's Eccentric Café (Back Room)  
355 E Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres  
Free and open to the public**

**5-7 pm Poster Setup, Registration, Reception**

**6:45 pm KACS Announcements**

**7:00 pm Keynote: "Transforming Crop Protection with Cysteine-Rich Natural Peptides – A Pipeline of Possibilities" by Kyle Schneider, Director of R&D at Vestaron, Kalamazoo**

**8 pm Prize Announcement**

**8-9 pm Poster Session, Network with Scientists and Speaker**

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate. Newly prepared or "recycled" posters are welcome. Student presenters who submit their abstract (100-200 words) by Sunday, Oct. 22 2023 can win a \$50 cash prize! (3 student presenters will receive a prize)

To reserve an easel, presenters should email the following information to [symposium@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:symposium@kalamazooacs.org) by **Sunday, Oct. 22 2023.**

- the poster title
- author list with the presenter underlined and an asterisk (\*) for the lead PI
- institution information
- an abstract to enter the prize drawing



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More info on the KACS at [https:// www.kalamazooacs.org/](https://www.kalamazooacs.org/)

Funding provided through a generous grant by **zoetis**



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2023

The **KALAMAZOO** Section of the American Chemical Society presents

**Sustainable Science – Recycle a Poster**

**“Transforming Crop Protection with Cysteine-Rich Natural Peptides – A Pipeline of Possibilities”**

**by Kyle Schneider, Director of R&D at Vestaron**



**Sci-Mix Poster Session on  
Oct 24, 2023 (5-9pm)  
Bell's Eccentric Café (Back Room)  
355 E Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres  
Free and open to the public**

Kyle Schneider is the Director of R&D at Vestaron in Kalamazoo. He will describe how a class of peptides that evolved diverse functions across every kingdom of life can be engineered and manufactured to create safe, effective bioinsecticides and antimicrobials for crop protection. Kyle is a former Goldwater Scholar, NSF Research Fellow, and National Academy of Engineering outstanding early career engineer. He has authored numerous papers in biochemistry and structural biology, a book chapter on peptides in crop protection, as well as an analysis on the use of biopesticides for the U.S. Congress. Kyle also holds six patents in peptide engineering and manufacturing and developed a novel peptide bioinsecticide currently under review for commercial application by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**5-7 pm Poster Setup, Registration, Reception**

**6:45 pm KACS Announcements**

**7:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Kyle Schneider, PhD**

**8 pm Prize Announcement**

**8-9 pm Poster Session, Network with Scientists and Speaker**

**Current ACS members, poster presenters and Zoetis employees are eligible for two complimentary drink tickets (alcoholic beverages for 21 years and older)**

For questions please email [symposium@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:symposium@kalamazooacs.org)

More info on the KACS at [https:// www.kalamazooacs.org/](https://www.kalamazooacs.org/)



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# The KalChemist News

November 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 10

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## 2023 KACS Executive Officers

### Chair

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Past-Chair

Mr. Ben Maxey  
[past.chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:past.chair@kalamazooacs.org)

### Chair-Elect

Vacant

### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

### 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. Tomasz Respondek  
[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)

## Robust Attendance at Sixth Speed Networking Night

### By Blakely Tresca

Future chemists and industry mentors gathered on October 2nd for the 6th KACS Speed Networking night in Zoom. Now in its fifth year, the event was jointly organized by the Kalamazoo College CCPD, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and our KACS Local Section.



Attendees included K College chemistry majors, WMU graduate students, and mentors from across Kalamazoo and the Lake Michigan region. This is the fourth virtual networking event, a pandemic induced switch that is helping to grow the event beyond the Kalamazoo/Portage area. Mentors joined us from as far away as Chicago and Mattawan.

This year we had robust attendance with 25 students and 11 mentors. Speed Networking brings together future chemists and mentors from local industry to foster community through networking. 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, David Keller from Charles River Laboratories shared tips for students hoping to land their first industry positions. Max Rhames, co-chair of the K College Chem Club, shared his networking experience after attending the event for his third year in a row.

We're looking forward to another great evening next year and continue to expand our reach beyond Kalamazoo.

Interested in becoming a mentor for the next event? Sign up now at <https://bit.ly/KACSSpeedNet> or contact Blakely Tresca ([btresca@kzoo.edu](mailto:btresca@kzoo.edu)) for info.



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# Families Explore the Wonders of Chemistry at Annual Museum Day

By Carol Kercher (KVM) and Hershel Jude (KACS)

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) presented “Health and Medicine: The Healing Power of Chemistry” on Saturday, October 14, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The 37<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of chemistry brought together chemistry enthusiasts and families to explore the wonders of chemistry and gain a deeper appreciation for the science that shapes our world.

Volunteers from Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Local Section of the ACS, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalsec, Perrigo, Pfizer, and Western Michigan University made it possible for attendees to engage in exciting experiments, witness captivating demonstrations, and learn about chemistry in other meaningful ways. Many activities aligned with this year’s National Chemistry Week theme, and several favorite activities made a comeback.



One of the event’s highlights was a poster display commemorating the National Historic Chemical Landmark recognizing The Upjohn Company’s groundbreaking contributions to the field of steroid medicines. This acknowledgment of The Upjohn Company’s pioneering work was met with great interest, demonstrating the importance of acknowledging and preserving the rich history of scientific innovation.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers who dedicated their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to make Chemistry Day possible. Your hard work and passion for science are truly appreciated. Without your dedication and participation, this event would not have been possible. Relive some of Chemistry Day’s exciting moments through photos on the museum’s [Flickr page](#).

Save the date of October 19, 2024, and participate with us at next fall’s NCW celebration of chemistry, “Photography and Imaging: Picture Perfect Chemistry.” Together, we will continue to ignite the spark of scientific curiosity and exploration in our community.





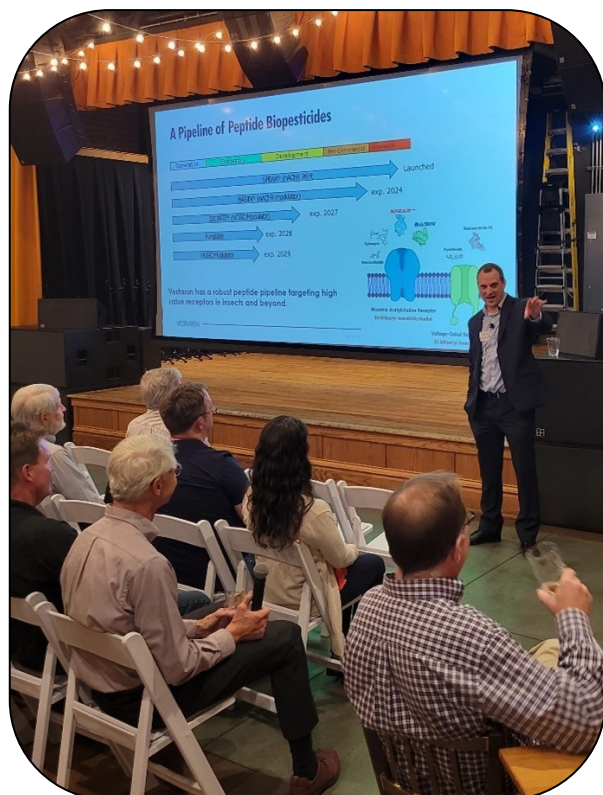
# Bell's Event A Resounding Success!

By Tomasz Respondek

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 marked the full return of the "Sustainable Science - Recycle a Poster" annual poster session at Bell's Eccentric Café for the 11<sup>th</sup> event of the series possible thanks to a generous donation from Zoetis. The event drew close to 100 attendees and 19 poster presenters. The enthusiasm and science conversations contributed to a great energy reminiscent of the event's pre-pandemic days! All attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and craft beers and beverages from Bell's Brewery.

The event followed its usual schedule with a keynote presentation from Kyle Schneider, Ph.D. Dr. Schneider is the Director of R&D at Vestaron in Kalamazoo. He is a former Goldwater Scholar, NSF Research Fellow, and National Academy of Engineering outstanding early career engineer. He has authored numerous papers in biochemistry and structural biology, a book chapter on peptides in crop protection, as well as an analysis on the use of bio-pesticides for the U.S. Congress. He also holds six patents in peptide engineering and manufacturing and developed a novel peptide bio-insecticide currently under review for commercial application by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Dr. Schneider gave a remarkable talk on Vestaron's chemical and biochemical approaches in their existing product SPEAR® as well as their future innovative products based on specific peptide constructs. The title of the extremely well-received talk was **"Transforming Crop Protection with Cysteine-Rich Natural Peptides – A Pipeline of Possibilities."** The presentation was followed by over 15 minutes of questions from the audience.



Dr. Schneider answering questions after his presentation titled: **"Transforming Crop Protection with Cysteine-Rich Natural Peptides – A Pipeline of Possibilities"**



Attendees of the 11<sup>th</sup> Recycle a Poster Symposium at Bell's Eccentric Café on October 24, 2023 during the keynote presentation with the posters in the background

The Eccentric Café was buzzing with the many scientific and networking conversations during the reception. Many active and retired scientists joined student presenters for the reception and the following poster presentation. 19 recycled posters highlighted research conducted at WMU, Vestaron, Bridge Organics and The Upjohn Company; three students from WMU were randomly selected as the winners of the three \$50 prizes.

The KACS executive committee would like to thank all the volunteers that helped organize the event and all the participants for joining us. We are looking forward to the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the event in October 2024!!

## ACS National and Local Election News

In the National ACS election Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips (pictured) was elected 2024 ACS President-elect (12% eligible voter participation). Read more about Dr. Phillips [here](#).



Locally, 47/230 (~20% voter participation!) KACS eligible voters cast votes in our section's election with the following results: Nicole Burke was elected Chair-elect for 2024, Jake Kirkendall continues as secretary for 2024-5 and Lydia E. M. Hines continues as councilor for 2024-6.

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## Past KACS Chair Mark Gerger Passes Away

Our sincere condolences to the family of Mark Gerger, 1997 KACS Chair, who passed away October 14, 2023. Mark not only served as section chair, but he was a regular, willing and passionate volunteer in our outreach activities as well as in many other science-related endeavors in the Kalamazoo area. From his [obituary](#):



“A lifelong learner, Mark was a seeker of knowledge and eager to share with others. After leaving the police force in 1982, Mark put his masters degree to work at the Upjohn Company and worked in Quality Assurance for over 22 years. In 2007, he began working in Swiftwater, Pennsylvania at Sanofi Pasteur as a Principal Scientist/Statistics within the Quality Control organization. Within a short time, Mark was promoted to Deputy Director of Statistics/Principal Scientist. He worked at Sanofi Pasteur for 16 years, until the time of his passing. Throughout his career, Mark belonged to the American Chemical Society, the American Society for Quality Engineering, the American Statistical Association, and many other professional organizations. Mark was even the author of a key statistical model that is still in use industry-wide today.

“Along with his day job, Mark taught statistics and chemistry evening classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and summer science camps at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. He developed Chemical Creations for KAMSC, where he was able to teach kids about one of his favorite subjects, how to make things go ‘boom!’ Most famously, Mark also taught Detective and Forensic Science camps for over two decades, inspiring many students to go into the field. In conjunction with these programs, he co-created the first forensic science programs in Michigan to prepare high school teachers on the subject and was instrumental in bringing forensic science programs into high school classrooms throughout the state. He patented and co-patented science kits for Ward Scientific and continued his own training in forensic anthropology at Mercyhurst University. He used this training during his return to law enforcement as an on-call sheriff's Special Deputy.”

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### KACS Calendar

#### November

- **November 20, Monday, 7 p.m.:** Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)

#### December

- **December 18, Monday, 7 p.m.:** Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](#)



## Share Your News Now

We would love to hear from you and share your news with fellow scientists in the Kalamazoo area! Send your news and events to newsletter editor Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com) by the end of the month in order to get it in next month's newsletter!





# The KalChemist News

December 2023

[www.kalamazooacs.org](http://www.kalamazooacs.org)

Vol. 13, Issue 11

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### KACS Donations and Finances

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*"KACS will end this year in excellent financial health with current total assets sufficient to cover about two years of anticipated annual expenses."*

## 2023 KACS

### Executive Officers

#### Chair

Dr. Dibyendu Mondal  
[chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:chair@kalamazooacs.org)

#### Past-Chair

Mr. Ben Maxey  
[past.chair@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:past.chair@kalamazooacs.org)

#### Chair-Elect

Vacant

#### Secretary

Mr. Jacob Kirkendall  
[secretary@kalamazooacs.org](mailto:secretary@kalamazooacs.org)

#### Treasurer

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

#### Councilor

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#### Alternate Councilor

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[tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com](mailto:tomasz.respondek@zoetis.com)



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## Increasing Attendance for WMU Chem Club

By Seth Byrne  
President

Over the Fall term our Club has seen increasing attendance and retention of our members – we have consistently had at least 6 non-executive-board members show up at each of our biweekly meetings and that number has grown throughout the semester to where we had over 14 people, in addition to our executive board members, at one of our November gatherings.

Some of our activities this semester have included

- Carving pumpkins together in celebration of Halloween
- Having a game night where we played “musical” chairs with an iodine clock reaction (see photos at right) and various other card games and
- Volunteering at Spring Valley Elementary School’s STEM fair for 3rd-5th graders



## KACS Calendar

### December

- **December 18, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](mailto:Dr.DibyenduMondal)

### January 2024

- **January 15, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](mailto:Dr.DibyenduMondal)

### February 2024

- **February 19, Monday**, 7 p.m.: Executive Committee meeting via Zoom; contact [Dr. Dibyendu Mondal](mailto:Dr.DibyenduMondal)

# KACS Donations and Finances

By Doug Williams  
KACS Treasurer

It's that time of year when everyone is making a gift request, but I'm going to do this a little differently and more transparently. First, the pitch. Most of you know that KACS (like ACS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Like others, we gratefully accept donations that you may claim as tax-deductible on your federal income taxes. On our website, you will find instructions to [donate to our Project SEED fund](#), but we also welcome donations to our general fund or for other specific purposes. These donations will benefit those who seek to improve their chemistry/career skills at all stages of life. If you choose to donate, please let us know if your employer will match it. THANKS!

Secondly, did you know that you can inspect our annual ACS financial reports? Yep, they are available on our [KACS archives webpage](#) along with many other historical files (newsletters, minutes, councilor reports). I assume that most of us are not interested in sifting through that much detail, so I hope that a summary will help. Please read to the end for an invitation.

Over the last six years, KACS has averaged about \$20,000/yr in revenues and \$17,000/yr in expenses (Figure 1), which has led to an increase of roughly \$20,000 in total assets (Figure 2). However, this growth was uneven and driven primarily by the cancellation of our usual education, outreach, travel grant, and social programs in 2020-2021 during the COVID pandemic. The return of in-person programs in 2022-2023 increased our costs, including a net operating loss of \$10,000 this year, which was mostly due to expansion of our Project SEED program from three to six students. At current commitment levels, we are looking ahead to another deficit of about \$7,000 in 2024 for five Project SEED students. We also plan to bring back our high school chemistry competitive scholarship exam in 2024 with an expense of about \$3,000. Donations will be necessary for us to operate a balanced budget next year. We continue to enjoy stable funding from ACS national, local section member voluntary dues, and directed donations from companies like Zoetis and Pfizer for programs like the Bell's Poster Event and high school teacher support, respectively.

We are deeply grateful for these funds and the trust that our donors have in us to use them wisely.

KACS will end this year in excellent financial health with current total assets sufficient to cover about two years of anticipated annual expenses. Of course, we could continue to spend this down in 2024 to arrive at a more typical one-year operating reserve, but, as we look to the future, I welcome ideas for how we might better manage these assets to ensure stable funding of our local section priorities. If you have interest or experience in this area, I would love to hear from you. Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season.

