
ACS Employment Assistance Program

A Valuable Resource for ACS Members

The ACS employment assistance program has become more important to members in recent years. With less commitment on the part of employers to retaining employees for a lifetime career, many chemical professionals will change jobs and employers several times. The employment assistance program can be of great benefit to ACS members when they are seeking a new job.

The national ACS has many career and employment assistance programs to help individual members search for a new job. Many are free to members. Through the *Expert Career Service* the ACS provides a career consultant program, telephone assistance, résumé review and career assistance, and mock interview sessions. The career consultant program is staffed by more than 60 volunteer consultants, all ACS members. They will assist members with all aspects of employment and career development: job search strategies, interviewing techniques, career transitioning, salaries, and résumés.

From telephone assistance members have access to information about salaries, employment trends, job/career transitions, résumé preparation, and other career issues. Résumé review and career assistance are also offered at ACS National and Regional Meetings. Expert consultants provide one-on-one assistance and discuss various issues concerning a member's career. Mock interview sessions are offered at ACS National Meetings. Members can have a practice interview taped and receive invaluable feedback from Career Services professionals. All of the above services are *free* to members!

Employment Services include employment clearing houses, an online Professional Data Bank, an ACS job bank, and "situations wanted" ads. Free employment clearing houses provide ACS members and national and student affiliates with information on current job openings and provide the opportunity to interview on-site with employers during ACS National and Regional Meetings. The online Professional Data Bank is an Internet recruiting tool designed to provide a fast, efficient, and cost-effective way for employers to reach job seekers. The ACS job bank puts weekly job postings at members' fingertips by indexing *C&EN* postings from the current and previous week. Also available is a hotlink to



Wendell Dilling, Chair
ACS Midland Section

CareerPath, which allows members to search nearly 50 metropolitan area newspapers for available positions in chemistry. "Situations wanted" ads allow members and national and student affiliates who are unemployed or who have been given 60 days notice of termination to place free advertisements in *C&EN*. This opportunity also applies to student members and affiliates who have not found employment two months prior to graduation. Retired members who are seeking part-time employment and have applied for retired status with ACS can place ads at no cost. What a great bargain for persons holding ACS membership!

Workshops and presentations include "Managing an Effective Job Search" (provided by the Midland Section in 1998), "Recruiters Panel," and "Employment Outlook, Security, and Marketability." *Workforce analysis publications* (some free) include "Annual Salary Survey," "Department of Career Services Bulletin," "Starting Salary Survey," "Current Trends," and "Women Chemists." *Videos* include "Career Transitions: Catalyst for Change," "Formula for Success: Turning Job Leads into Gold," "Developing the Right Picture: Résumé Preparation," "The Essence of a Winning Interview," and "Your Career in Chemistry: Measuring Your Skills, Weighing Your Options." *Other publications* include "Professional Employment Guidelines," "Academic Professional Guidelines," "Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities," "Working Chemists with Disabilities: Expanding Opportunities in Science," "What a (BS, MS, PhD) Chemist Should Consider Before Accepting an (Industrial, Government, Academic) Position," "Career Transitions for Chemists," "Careers for Chemists," "Targeting the Job Market," "The Interview Handbook," "Tips on Résumé Preparation," "The Chemist's Code of Conduct," "Coping with Job Loss," "Resources for Career Management," and "Employment Guide for Foreign-Born Chemists in the United States."

The Midland Section has increased its career and employment assistance under the capable leadership of Don Miller and Sarah Snow. Our local program provides members with the following: (1) a list of companies employing chemical and related professionals in the five-county Section area, (2) networking with other local sections and universities, (3) employment workshops at ACS events, and (4) a collection of employment aids, brochures, and videos (some of those listed above) at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

For more information on these programs see the National ACS and Midland Section web sites at <http://www.acs.org/careers> and <http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/MemServ.htm>, respectively. Be sure to take advantage of this aspect of ACS membership when planning a career or job change.

Wendell L. Dilling

Spring Recognition Dinner Honors Members, Students, and Educators

By Chitra Subramaniam

Food, fireworks, and fun! These three words marked the annual Recognition Dinner of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society held at The Dow Chemical Company on April 19, 2000. This event is organized by the Midland Section every year, and awards are presented for outstanding achievement in various aspects of the chemical sciences. The evening began with a splendid dinner. This was followed by a presentation by Jim Malek on pyrotechnics. Jim Malek is a technical information specialist with Dow Corning Corporation. He is also an expert on the art, craft, and science of pyrotechnics and is an active member of several leading organizations related to that science.

Jim's presentation was truly educational, covering a wide range of topics including the classification of fireworks, the different types of shells used in display fireworks, the chemistry and physics involved in the process of firing a shell, as well as regulations and safety. He informed the audience of the stringent "Safe and Sane" law in the state of Michigan. This law restricts the use of fireworks to sparklers, fountains, cones, and a few novelty items, and essentially excludes anything that "moves, explodes, or goes more than 10 ft in the air." Yet, it is possible to legally enjoy the fireworks in spite of the limited number of fireworks that are permitted by law. Jim also assured the audience that fireworks are not dangerous if proper care is taken to avoid injuries. He concluded his presentation with splendid photographs of fireworks shows in his backyard, confirming that it is possible to make a show out of what we are allowed to work with in Michigan. More information on pyrotechnics can be obtained from the Internet at many sites including these:



Dr. Bob Howell (right), Midland Section Councilor, presented the award for Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of Chemical Sciences to David E. Henton (left) of The Dow Chemical Company.

- <http://sd.znet.com/~rjweaver/book.html>
- <http://tad1.cit.cornell.edu/tom/pyro/MyPyro.html>
- <http://ai.chem.ohiou.edu/~tip/pyro.html>
- <http://www.fireworksafety.com/>

Jim's talk was followed by the awards presentation. The first award of the

evening was presented to David E. Henton of The Dow Chemical Company for his long and outstanding career in science that has been marked with awards, publications, and patents. Dave's

career was featured in *The Midland Chemist*, Vol. 36, No. 8,



Wendell Dilling (far right), chair of the Midland ACS, with 50-year members James Leddy, Gerald Clark, and Lawrence Brown (left to right).

December 1999. The Society also recognized members who have been with the ACS for 50 years. These members include Lawrence H. Brown, Billy E. Burgert, Gerald A. Clark, Robert A. Delap, D. Dick DeLine, Henry J. Dishburger, Howard L. Garrett, Gust J. Kookootsedes, James J. Leddy, Robert L. Miller, Wallace U. Seiler, Owen L. Stafford, and Alan H. Stark. Members who were present to receive the awards included Lawrence Brown, Gerald Clark, and James Leddy. The careers of these long-time members will be featured in a future issue of *The Midland Chemist*.

Next, awards were presented to the younger talent in the local area. The first awards were presented to Arrak Bhattacharrya, Bethany Clark, Melissa Crevia, Christopher Cunningham, Yaseen Elkasabi, Joe Fairchild, Sean Hilty, and Steven Sandoval from the different local high schools. These students have excelled in the Chemistry Olympiad and are competing for an opportunity to go to Copenhagen for the International Olympiad contest. More details on the local competition are given in this issue of *The Midland Chemist*.

Outstanding high school chemistry students, as nominated by their teachers, were also honored at the event. The students recognized were Alexandra Bartlett, Heather Marie Beebe, Robert Butts, Russell D. Flewelling III, Lisa Guenther, Daniel Jensen, Rebecca Jurens, Duncan Kochhar-Lindgren, Christopher Kubin, Duston Miller, Christopher

Rentsch, Jared Andrew Stasik, and Amanda Wade. Some of these students and their families had come from neighboring areas including Shepherd, Frankenmuth, and Mt. Pleasant.

Moving up the education ladder, outstanding college chemistry students from the local and neighboring colleges and universities were recognized.

These students include Stacey E. Beyer, Deborah R. Rothe, Joshua W.R. Nevels, Jason Stotter, and Rick Edgar. Sara Shinavar was recognized as the Outstanding College Chemical Technology student.

This event also recognized the dedication and commitment of four teachers—Sue Burtch, Robin Harshman-Rogers, Clare Jorgensen, and Vicki Richard—from Car-



Outstanding High School Chemistry Students—Alexandra Bartlett (Shepherd High), Heather Marie Beebe (Carrollton High), Robert Butts (Midland High), Russell D. Flewelling III (Hemlock High), Daniel Jensen (Clare High), Rebecca Jurens (Arthur Hill High), Duncan Kochhar-Lindgren (Mt. Pleasant High), Christopher Kubin (St. Louis High), Duston Miller (Merrill High), Christopher Rentsch (H.H.Dow High), Jared Andrew Stasik (Frankenmuth High), and Amanda Wade (Western High).



Outstanding College Chemistry Students—Stacey E. Beyer (Alma College), Deborah R. Rothe (Central Michigan University), Joshua W.R. Nevels (Delta College), Jason Stotter (Saginaw Valley State University), and Rick Edgar (Alma College)



Sara Shinavar (Delta College), winner of the Outstanding College Chemical Technology Student Award.

penter Elementary School in Midland. This dynamic team created two new and innovative hands-on science programs for the third, fourth, and fifth graders in their school. The first program, called “Piecing It Together with Science,” was in support of the math/science curriculum and enabled the teachers to identify the areas where students need help. The second program, called “Mystery Science Night,” required the students to use scientific techniques such as fingerprinting, paper chromatography, electromagnets, etc., to identify the culprits in a crime. In addition to teaching the students that crime does not pay, these programs served to better prepare them for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).



Sue Burtch, Robin Harshman-Rogers, Clare Jorgensen, and Vicki Richard (Carpenter Elementary School, Midland), winners of the Outstanding Achievement in Elementary Level Science Education.

school child and the manager of global sponsored research at Dow Corn-

The teachers also organized a K-2 science night, where the students (from different grades) and parents spent time at hands-on learning centers making observations and collecting data. This was a “wonderful learning experience in a safe, nonthreatening environment” as described by Tom Lane, parent of a Carpenter



Steve Kelly (St. Louis High School), winner of the Outstanding Achievement in High School Chemistry Teaching Award.



James Hutchison (Alma College), winner of the Outstanding Achievement in College Chemistry Teaching Award.

ing Corporation.

Awards were also presented for outstanding achievements in teaching chemistry at different levels. The recipients were Steve Kelly of St. Louis High School and James Hutchison of Alma College. The final award for the evening was presented to the outstanding 2000 Science Education Volunteer, Karol Childs. Karol is the director of the Hall of Ideas and has been instrumental in raising interest in science in the Midland area.

(Photos for this story by Dick Van Effen)



Wendell Dilling (chair of the Midland Section ACS) presented the 2000 Science Education Volunteer Award to Karol Childs (Midland Center for the Arts).

Kids + Chemistry = Mystery Solved

By Pat and Peter Dreyfuss

Kids turned into sleuths and Midland chemists became private detectives as they joined forces to solve the mystery of “The Unsigned Letter” recently. The event was part of National Science & Technology Week (NSTW), April 10 through April 14, 2000, at the Hall of Ideas of the Midland Center for the Arts (MCFTA). It marked the Midland Section’s debut of **Kids & Chem-**

istry, a program developed by the American Chemical Society to give scientists the resources and training necessary to share hands-on science with mainly middle school children ages 9 to 12. National ACS had trained 36 local scientists at a **Kids & Chemistry** workshop at the 1997 Central Regional Meeting in Midland, but until now the local section had not implemented the program.

NSTW brings children from all over central Michigan to MCFTA. The mystery of “The Unsigned Letter” was solved repeatedly at two



All eyes are on the chief detective as amateur sleuths seek to solve the mystery of “The Unsigned Letter.”



Pat Dreyfuss leads students through charting their experimental results.

2-hour periods each day, with three 30-minute sessions in each 2-hour period and as many as 60 kids in each 30-minute session.

A total of 862 young sleuths carried out chromatography experiments or analyses on inks, white powder, soil, and paper using knowns and unknowns. They analyzed their results to show that Uncle Ben Zene was the forgetful relative who didn't sign the letter. Rewards consisted of jelly beans and pretzel gems and take-home experiments involving eggs. Fielding enough chemists to supervise hands-on experiments with this number of kids in the limited time available was a real challenge. Many, many thanks and kudos to all who helped. In the end we supplemented with center guides, parents, teachers, and chaperones.

We had fun, the kids had fun, the teachers were happy, and we're invited back to do something similar again next year. We're looking for volunteers for April 23–27, 2001! To volunteer, call Pat Dreyfuss at (517) 832-7651, e-mail p2drey@aol.com, or write 3980 Old Pine Trail, Midland 48642. The experiments are set up for you and are simple to do. Training will be provided. A 2-hour (or more) commitment is preferred, but even 30 minutes can be a great help.

FOR HOW MANY MINUTES . . .

...would you feel comfortable discussing with your neighbor or friends the global chemical industry initiative known as *Responsible Care*?

If you are a member of the chemical industry, we urge you to learn about this initiative, which calls on chemical companies to demonstrate their commitment to improve all aspects of performance that relate to the protection of health, safety, and the environment.



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Chemistry Olympiad Attracts Future Scientists

By Dave Baker

The Chemistry Olympiad was developed by the American Chemical Society in 1984 to stimulate all young people to achieve excellence in chemistry. Through chemistry examinations and laboratory practicals it seeks to recognize outstanding chemistry students and encourage additional learning at a formative time in their educational development. It is seen as a contact between local ACS sections and their area schools. It is hoped that these contacts will foster an interest by professional chemists in the teaching of chemistry and the education of young people.

Each section that participates is responsible for giving the examinations in its area and for selecting its high school students who will take the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (UNSCO) examination. Last year David Kurtz from Dow High School in Midland scored so high in the UNSCO examination that he was selected as one of the top twenty chemistry students in the nation to participate in the National Chemistry camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. An acknowledgment of his achievements was presented at last year's Fall Scientific Meeting, and his chemistry teacher, Mary Fredell, was presented with an award for her efforts in stimulating and encouraging excellence in chemical education.

This year's Chemistry Olympiad chair is Edward Bensen, a faculty member at Central Michigan University (CMU), along with Estelle

LeBeau, a new faculty member in inorganic chemistry. As in many ACS local section activities, all of Ed and Estelle's work is voluntary. It is quite a mammoth responsibility to organize the entire Olympiad, from ordering and mailing the exams, to grading all the returned



From left to right, the participants in the Chemistry Olympiad national competition were: Melissa Crevia, Bethany Clark, Steven Sandoval, Yaseen Elkasabi, Christopher Cunningham, Arrak Bhatthcharyya, Sean Hilty, and Joe Fairchild. Photo: Estelle Lebeau

exams, to selecting and notifying the top eight students. The annual budget for the Chemistry Olympiad in the Midland Section is around \$2,500.

The number of students allotted to each section depends upon its membership count. The Midland Section is allotted eight students with a maximum of two students from any one school. In January forms were mailed to all the local area high schools to inquire if they would like to participate in this year's Chemistry Olympiad. From this mailing a total of 14 schools representing some 450 students expressed an interest in participating. Unfortunately, by the due date of Wednesday, April 5, 2000, only 10 schools returned their results for 253 students' exams. After much deliberation and organization the committee was able to identify the top eight students: Christopher Cunningham, Saginaw Academy of Arts and Sciences, Saginaw; Arrak Bhatthcharyya and Sean Hilly, Dow High School, Midland; Bethany Clark and Melissa Crevia, Merrill High School, Merrill; Joe Fairchild and Yaseen Elkasabi, Heritage High School, Saginaw; and Steven Sandoval, Midland High School, Midland.

These students were honored and received certificates and monies at the Midland ACS Awards Banquet. They were all invited to participate in the UNSCO exam on Saturday, April 15, which is held in the chemistry department of CMU. The exam consists of two written theoretical sections and a one-hour laboratory practical for a total of four and one-half hours. Besides the top eight students, another 12 students were recognized for their accomplishments in this year's exam and also received certificates and monies.

Clearly with the participation of only 10 area high schools, the local section and its members must make some serious decisions about the future of the Chemistry Olympiad in the Midland Section. Should members be recruited to help school teachers administer these exams? Are the goals of the Chemistry Olympiad being achieved in mid-Michigan? Are high school students so overcommitted with the Math Olympiad and Science Olympiad that the Chemistry Olympiad has fallen through the cracks? If you have any constructive suggestions on how to increase student and school participation or want to volunteer for next year's Chemistry Olympiad, please contact the Midland Section chair, Wendell Dilling, at wendell.l.dilling@cmich.edu or (517) 744-3955.



Yaseen Elkasabi takes a moment from his laboratory "practical," an important part of the Chemistry Olympiad competition. Photo: Estelle Lebeau

Section Leadership Changes Announced

By Wendell Dilling

Several changes in the leadership roster (*The Midland Chemist* 2000, 37, No.1, 8–9, February) for the Midland Section have occurred recently.

- M. Peter Dreyfuss [832-7651 (h), p2drey@aol.com] was elected as an interim director by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy brought about by the resignation of Vicky Cobb.
- Patricia Dreyfuss [832-7651 (h), p2drey@aol.com] has accepted the position of chair of the Committee on Kids and Chemistry, which has been reactivated after several years of inactivity.
- Jack P. Arrington [636-2939 (w), jparr@dow.com] has accepted the position of chair of the *ad hoc* Committee on Midland Section Finances.

Please Welcome These New Midland Section Members!

By Connie Murphy

Welcome to the following people who have either recently joined the American Chemical Society or transferred into the Midland Section:

- Karen Balwinski
- Richard Helling
- Nicole R. Lenz
- Ron McCreedy
- Barbara A. Miller
- Michael G. Foster
- Timothy P. Mitchell
- Devang T. Shah
- Chitra P. Subramaniam
- Michael L. Trippeer
- David G Barton
- Jasson Todd Patton
- Edward A. Valenzuela



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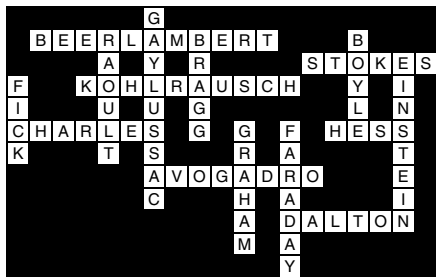
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www.impactanalytical.org

To Readers of *The Midland Chemist*

By Ann Birch

My apologies for the lateness of this issue. There are times when the forces just seem to be against you. As usual, *The Midland Chemist* will be taking a break during July then be back on track in August, ready to gear up for fall activities. Don't forget the Professional Scientific Society Day at the Midland County Fair on August 18 and also the MMTG Fair Booth on August 15 and 17. The ACS Midland Section and other local sections of science societies will be offering many family activities, which we will detail in the August issue. Have a great summer!



Answer to Last Month's ChemPuzzler

Note: An astute reader pointed out that the clues for Gay-Lussac and Charles were reversed. This is probably an indication that your editor should not quit her day job!

—Ann

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Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

- June 14 "The Basics of Investment," 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (Janet Smith, 517-496-6860, janet.smith@dowcorning.com)
- July 7 Deadline for August issue of *The Midland Chemist*
- July 15 Deadline for Fall Scientific Meeting poster abstracts (David Karpovich, 517-790-4349, dsk@svsu.edu)
- August 7 Midland Section board meeting, Delta College, University Center, Room D135, 7:00 p.m.
- August 15, 17 ACS MMTG County Fair Booth, Midland County Fair (Brian Murdoch, 517-631-4619, bmurdoch@dow.com)
- August 18 Professional Scientific Society Day, Midland County Fair (Gretchen Kohl, 517-496-8200, gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com, or Karol Childs, 517-631-5931, ext. 1215, childs@mcfta.org)
- August 20-24 National ACS Meeting, Washington, DC (<http://www.acs.org>)

Change Your Bookmarks or Favorites List!

The Midland Section web site has been moved to the ACS server. The new URL is <http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/>. Please change the bookmarks or favorites list on your Internet browser to the new location. The remaining page at the old web site will also point you to the new location.

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