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THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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*Chair Column***50-Year Members Noted**

At our last Fall Scientific Meeting we honored eleven Midland Section 50-year members but had no additional information regarding three of these honorees to include in the December *Midland Chemist* article devoted to them. I felt bad about this because I know two of these fine chemists, and I would like to pay tribute to them here.

Loren Haluska is one of Dow Corning's most prolific contributors to its patent portfolio. He is known to the current generation for his research in electronics materials, but I first knew him for his seminal contributions to silicone-polyether copolymers used in the stabilization of polyurethane foam. My first assignment in the silicone industry at Midland Silicones in Barry, Wales, in 1965 was to determine the mechanism by which these copolymers created by Loren operated.

Nick Angelotti was a mainstay of the Dow Corning Analytical Department for many years. He was the consummate "reverse-engineer"; the best in the business in my opinion. If you had an unknown material there was no question in my mind who you would take it to for enlightenment.

I do not know the other honoree, **Frank Scheidt**, but I understand he was a long-time member of the E.C. Britton lab at Dow, specializing in photolysis. I extend my hearty congratulations to all our 50-year members.

By the time you read this, the 225th National Meeting at New Orleans will already be history. I hope as many of you as possible were able to participate, although I know travel has been strictly curtailed for many of you at the present time. You might find it easier to attend one of the closer regional meetings this year. The Central Regional Meeting is in Pittsburgh, October 19–22, and the Great Lakes Regional Meeting is in Chicago, June 1–3. They offer a more "manageable" alternative to the national meetings, and I encourage you to attend and participate. ACS regional meetings have been with us since 1908 and are organized by volunteers in the local sections. This will soon have a big impact on us because we have committed the Midland Section to host the 2006 Central Regional Meeting. It is not too soon to begin identifying lead volunteers for this exciting event. Indeed, I have made it one of my personal goals to identify two co-chairs for the meeting. Please get in touch with me if you have an interest.

Another important event is our annual Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner on May 1, when we recognize outstanding teachers, stu-



Mike Owen, Chair
ACS Midland Section

dents, and science education volunteers in our area. I believe this is the twelfth year that we have had such a gathering. Details are given elsewhere in this issue of *The Midland Chemist*, but here I should like to express my appreciation for the fine efforts of the members of our Awards Committee who make this event possible. I am constantly impressed by the dedication of our volunteers and so grateful for the time and effort they contribute to us. My compliments to Petar Dvornic (Chair), Mike Ferritto, Steve Kaganove, Steve Keinath, Britt Lundberg, Wendy Mallory, Wendy Matthews, Deb Mendrick, Randi Merrington, Paul Popa, Dawn Right, and Pam Slavings.

Mike Owen

Thank You to ODG Members

By Wendell L. Dilling

I would like to thank the organic chemists who recently agreed to donate the \$3527.05 remaining in the Midland Organic Discussion Group (ODG) treasury to the Midland Section ACS Endowed Scholarship Fund. These chemists, Gary Buske, Clark Cummins, Mark Emonds, Duane Romer, Ian Tomlinson, and myself, constituted a majority of the members of ODG when it disbanded in 1999. The ODG treasury was built up from dues paid by the many organic chemists who were members of ODG since its founding in 1957.



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People Profiles

Melissa Strait: Small-town College Professor with a Worldwide Outlook

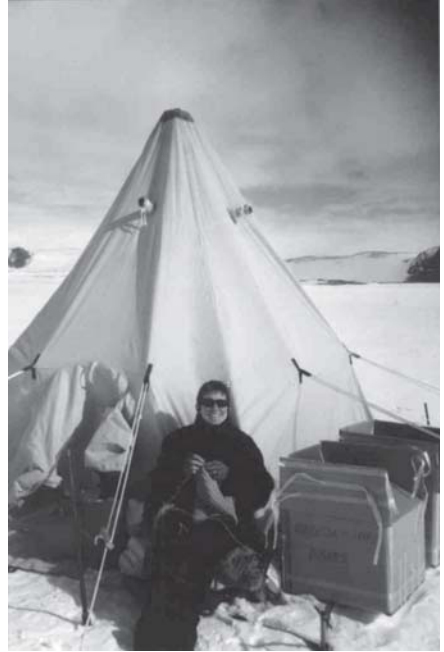
By Peggy Hill

Her name may be Strait, but she's been around. Boy, has she been around! Name a country off the top of your head, and Melissa Strait will probably tell you that she's been there. This Alma College professor has successfully mixed her scientific interests and aspirations with a love of travel, giving her opportunities to visit exotic places that most of us only fantasize about.

When you talk to Melissa about her travels, it's hard to know where to start—Finland? Italy? Egypt? Uzbekistan? Antarctica? Whoa! Not many people I know have been to Antarctica. Melissa lived on that chilly continent for six weeks during a sabbatical in 2000-01. She worked as part of a National Science Foundation project that has been ongoing for 30 years to collect meteorites for extraterrestrial site characterization/classification analysis.

Melissa started on her space rock interests years ago while pursuing doctoral work characterizing meteorites with the goal of trying to establish their parent planet origin using signature chemical composition and geological structure. Since her Ph.D. days, she has collaborated with other meteorite researchers in doing high-resolution, scanning electron microscopic analysis of samples from the Vatican meteorite collection. So it was like a dream-come-true for Melissa to spend part of her sabbatical freezing her buns off looking for bits of planets from outer space.

Antarctica is the best place to look for meteorites. Its white ice fields are great backdrops for the black rocks that got that way burning through our atmosphere. Every Antarctic summer, teams of six to eight meteorite hunters spend six-week rotations searching the seventh continent for rocky pieces from other planets. Melissa and her teammates lived in tents,



Melissa Strait's home away from home in Antarctica. The boxes contain food and other provisions (not to mention knitting yarn).

cooked over camp stoves, and zoomed around on snowmobiles during their daily forays out into the meteorite fields. Temperatures ranged from -20 to -10°C (-5 to 15°F). As Melissa put it in her naturally upbeat way, “We didn’t have to worry about food storage—we just set our supplies outside of the tent and they stayed frozen!”



Perched on a mountain in Antarctica, Melissa took a break from meteorite-hunting.

On average the team would find about thirty meteorites a day; a bad day might produce no finds and a good day could top fifty. Altogether, their six-week effort netted about 750 meteorites that were sent back to the Antarctic Meteorite Curation Facility at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston. There, they were catalogued and classified and will eventually be characterized through chemical and structural analyses.

As much as she relishes icy experiences like her South Pole adventure, Melissa also likes to spend time in hot climates. For several years she has led groups of ten to fifteen Alma College students on four-week trips to Cairo, Egypt, during the college’s May term. Aside from her meteorite work, analytical environmental projects take up Melissa’s research time. The Egypt trip provides an ideal case study approach for her course, which combines environmental policy, methods for industrial pollution monitoring, and excellent industrial examples of both compliance and noncompliance. She and her students interface with the Tabbin Institute for Metallurgical Studies in Cairo, which, despite the implications of its name, is heavily involved with environmental assessment work. Oh, and she doesn’t mind touring the antiquities in the off-hours.

Well, we’ve covered Antarctica and Egypt. With all the countries Melissa has visited, it would take another thirty paragraphs to give you a real sense of her traveling experiences. Suffice it to say that Melissa can tell you about a variety of places in six of seven continents. The continent yet to receive this world traveler? South America. But Melissa has that covered—the 2004 meeting of the Meteoritical Society will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

When not traveling, Melissa enjoys her adopted hometown of Alma

and the Alma College community. Busy with teaching and research, she still finds time to mentor the ACS student affiliate group at the college and has developed a widely recognized service learning program that enables students to serve public needs in environmental sampling, analysis, and reporting. As testimony to the impact of her work, she recently shared the 2002 Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service Learning award with another Alma College faculty member. She has been an ACS member since 1982.

Melissa is very open to sharing her experiences. Anyone interested in contacting her about giving a talk on her Antarctic adventure to school or civic groups is welcome to do so—she'll be more than happy to come around. Melissa Strait's e-mail address is straitm@alma.edu.

We Need Your Input!

By Ann Birch

The *Midland Chemist* is seeking input from members on two items. We are initiating two new series of articles. One series will be "People Profiles," by Peggy Hill, highlighting chemists in the Section five-county area who stand out from the crowd for their contributions to science, contributions to society, or for other unusual attributes. The other series will be "Careers for Chemists," by Don Miller, highlighting chemists who use their degrees in unusual ways and have unusual careers related to chemistry. Subjects for this series are not confined to the Section area. One of the purposes of this series is to inform Section members of opportunities that might exist outside conventional chemistry careers.

If you have ideas for subjects for either of these series, please contact Peggy Hill (m.hill@chartermi.net, 989-463-6467) for "People Profiles" or Don Miller (donmiller@tm.net, 989-832-8270) for "Careers for Chemists."

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Science Literacy Goes To Rose City Schools

By John Blizzard

Doug Grezeszak, Ogemaw Heights High School chemistry teacher, arranged with the Midland Section Project Literacy group to help bring science to life in the classrooms at Rose City elementary and middle schools. Doug arranged for eighteen of his advanced placement chemistry and physics students to present science experiments to the entire Rose City school system. These students were also the ones that had presented science experiments to the public in West Branch, Michigan, during National Chemistry Week. After training by Marvin Tegen and John Blizzard, these students demonstrated five experiments for the schools. The experiments included:

- Secret messages on paper
- Paper chromatography
- Bernoulli bag races
- “Squiddy” the pet cartisian diver
- Surface tension pennies

Each class was brought into a room where they were divided into smaller groups for the presentations. After they completed the hands-on demonstrations, they received popcorn and a science bag. Each bag contained a number of editions of the ACS publication *Wonder Science*, National City bank pencils, and a science gift. Ms. Karen Blizzard, National City bank manager, stressed that “National City Bank was again pleased to partner with the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society in bringing science to this under-represented area. National City Bank is committed to serving the community in which we have local branches. Partnering with the American Chemical Society is one way in which we can serve these communities.” She and Ms. Karen Noel spent the day volunteering to pop popcorn and put the bags together for each student. During the day-long event, 391 students were brought in to view the experiments by 22 teachers. This was the entire Rose City student body from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Ms. Bib Trudell, fifth-grade teacher at Rose City, commented, “Thanks for providing our students at Rose City elementary and middle school with a great science experience. I am constantly hearing from staff members about how they are using the information in their classes.”

Although Marvin and John were there to “assist” the high school students, the scientific principles and explanations were performed by the high school students. Not only does this reinforce the students’ understanding of the science concepts, it also places them in a position of mentoring and enhances scientific presentation skills. According to Doug Grezeszak, “This is a project the students will remember for their entire life, whether they pursue a career in science or not.”

Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner

Thursday, May 1, 2003

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

47 Building Cafeteria, The Dow Chemical Company
Midland, Michigan

Program: 6:00 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner
7:30 p.m. Awards Presentations

Teachers and students will be recognized for their outstanding achievements in science education at this twelfth annual event.

The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person and includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, and beverage. Please respond by mail using the form below. Your dinner reservation request must be received by April 21, 2003. You may also register by email

(dvornic@mml.org) and pay at the door. This event is sponsored by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society and underwritten by grants from The Dow Chemical Company and Dow Corning Corporation. For



further information, contact Petar Dvornic at (989) 832-5555, ext. 550.

To reserve a place at the 2003 Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner, return this form with payment by **April 21, 2003**, to Petar Dvornic, Michigan Molecular Institute, 1910 W. St. Andrews Road, Midland, MI 48640-2696

Name(s): _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____ ACS member? Y N

Enclose payment of \$15.00 per person. Checks should be payable to "Midland Section ACS"

A Big Thank You to Our Active Volunteers

By Mike Owen

One thing you can be sure of in this uncertain world, once you start naming names you will omit ones that ought to be there, and you are also bound to misspell some. However, this is no reason not to acknowledge the great contributions of our active volunteers. When I wrote a call for volunteers article last year in *The Midland Chemist*, I said there were not enough members of this dedicated group who make our Section so successful. This is true in the sense that a few of our committees are understaffed, but it is misleading in its implication that we don't have much active participation among members. I estimate close to 120 members are active in our various committees (close to 15% of our membership), and I would like to thank them sincerely for their tremendous contribution.

Please note the many "multi-hatted" talented individuals we have. Several people are on four or five committees; the only volunteer contributing to six committees seems to be Angelo Cassar, but I've probably missed someone else. Please let me know. We have volunteers who aren't even ACS members, including a few spouses. (I strongly approve; I enjoyed being a registered Girl Scout when my wife was much involved in that organization.)

The most critically understaffed committee is the Career Services and Professional Relations committee. This is an important activity, particularly in the current difficult economic climate. I hesitate to ask any of the good folks listed here to do more—please let me know if you can help us with this important matter. Again, I know there must be mistakes and omissions in this list. I await your corrections and will include them in future Chair columns. Thank you all so very much.

Note: The superscripts refer to specific committees. 1 is Sci-Fest, 2 is Minority Affairs, 3 is Younger Chemists, 4 is National Chemistry Week, 5 is MMTG, 6 is The Midland Chemist, 7 is Board members, 8 is Long Range Planning, 9 is Publicity, 10 is Program, 11 is Historian, 12 is Corporate Agent, 13 is Kids and Chemistry, 14 is Auditor, 15 is Awards, 16 is Fall Scientific Meeting, 17 is Technical Society Interface, 18 is Nominations and Elections, 19 is Government Affairs, 20 is Project SEED, 21 is National ACS committees, 22 is Chemistry Olympiad, 23 is Career Services and Professional Relations, 24 is Explorers Post, 25 is Membership Growth and Retention, 26 is Science Promotions, 27 is Web Site.

Midland Section Volunteers

Brian Aldrich ¹	Stephanie Gabelnick ^{3,16}	Karen Moore ⁴
Phyllis Anderson ¹	Mike Garlick ¹	Connie Murphy ^{7,21,25}
Stephanie Anderson ¹	Danielle Gingerich ¹⁶	Lena Nguyen ³
Victor Atiemo-Obeng ²	Cesar Gonzales ²	Gerald Nowaczyk ¹
Kate Austin ³	Eldon Graham ¹⁷	Didem Oner-Deliomanli ^{3,16}
Debbie Bailey ^{1,4,5}	Bob Howell ^{7,18,19}	Mike Owen ^{7,18}
Dave Baker ⁶	Peggy Hill ^{2,6,9,20}	Sandra Parker ²
Shari de Beauclair ²	Todd Hogan ⁴	Cynthia Peck ¹
Deb Bergstein ²	Charles Infante ²	Sue Perz ^{1,5}
Deb Bergstrom ⁷	Anton Jensen ¹⁰	Bill Pike ¹⁴
Amy Betz ^{1,5}	Mike Johnson ³	Paul Popa ^{4,15}
Doug Beyer ^{7,16}	Steve Kaganove ¹⁵	Joe Powers ⁴
Stacey Beyer ³	Dave Karpovich ^{16,20}	Sara Ratcliff ²⁴
Ann Birch ^{6,7}	Mindy Keefe ¹⁶	Dawn Right ¹⁵
James Birch ⁶	Steve Keinath ^{7,18}	Gene Rose ¹⁶
Dana Bitzer ¹	Justin Keyes ²	Barbara Roth ⁴
John Blizzard ⁴	Gretchen Kohl ^{1,4,7,9,18}	Chuck Roth ⁴
Vickie Blizzard ^{1,4}	Bob Kohman ¹¹	Walt Rupprecht ¹³
Steve Booth ¹⁶	Gary Kozerski ^{3,7,18}	Joan Sabourin ^{1,2,4,7,9}
Carrie Briggs ¹⁶	Sarah Kushon ⁵	Richard Skochdopole ^{4,13}
Beth Cork ¹⁶	Kermit Kwan ¹⁸	Sara Shinavar ¹
Pat Cannady ^{7,8}	Tom Lane ²¹	Alisa Silvernale ¹⁶
Angelo Cassar ^{1,4,6,7,9,16}	Dale LeCaptain ^{3,16}	Pam Slavings ^{1,3,5,15}
Joe Ceraso ^{7,10}	Buford Lemon ^{3,16}	Art Smith ^{7,18}
Keith Connerly ²	Becky Lorenz ^{3,16}	Janet Smith ^{4,5}
Kristine Danowski ^{3,6}	Britt Lundberg ¹⁵	Pat Smith ¹⁶
Dan Dermody ^{3,16}	Sharyl Majorski-Briggs ^{7,22}	Sarah Snow ⁷
Wendell Dilling ^{4,7,11,18}	Gina Malzjewski ⁴	Dave Stickles ^{1,4,5,7,13}
Lin Dorman ^{2,4,13}	Wendy Mallory ^{1,5,15,16}	Wanda Stringfield ²
Pat Dreyfuss ^{4,12,13}	Nate Malowinski ⁵	Becky Swanson ¹
Pete Dreyfuss ^{4,13,14}	Ernesto Martinez ²	Marv Tegen ^{4,26}
Tim Drier ¹	Wendy Matthews ^{1,4,5,15}	Melissa Tacey ³
Peter Dvornic ¹⁵	Margo McIvor ⁴	Dick VanEffen ¹
George Eastland ⁷	John McMahon ⁴	Fred Vance ³
Shawn Feist ³	Merritt Meeks ¹³	Padma Varapath ¹³
Mike Ferritto ^{4,15}	Deb Mendrick ¹⁵	Penny Wallace ¹
Wendy Flory ^{3,16}	Randi Merrington ¹⁵	Jennifer Walton ¹¹
Walter Foster ²	Don Miller ^{4,6,13,23}	David Wolfe ¹³
Harry Fowler ⁴	Dave Mitchell ^{16,27}	

ACS Chemagination Contest Begins

Interested in working with students? Hoping to involve more teachers in section activities? ACS is seeking people with connections to high school chemistry teachers and/or an interest in motivating high school students in the field of chemistry to be part of a Chemagination committee and to run a contest in the area.



Chemagination is a chemistry essay and poster contest for students in grades 9-12. Students look 25 years into the future and write an article that they believe could appear in *ChemMatters* magazine about an innovation or breakthrough in the field of chemistry that they think will be important in the lives of teenagers at that time. Student articles focus on one of four categories: biotechnology, medicine/health care, new materials, or transportation/environment.

For information about the contest, visit <http://chemistry.org/chemagination> or e-mail chemagination@acs.org.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2003

The theme for "Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2003" is *ChemisTree*. As part of the celebration, the Office of Community Activities is sponsoring a poetry competition for students in grades K-12. Students in grades 3-12 are invited to write a poem in the haiku format related to the chemistry of trees. Students in grades K-2 may use any poetic style. As the unifying event, local sections are being asked to sponsor a tree planting ceremony in their community. Hands-on activities, as well a sample press release, are available online at <http://chemistry.org/earthday>. For additional information, contact the ACS Office of Community Activities at 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6078.

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MMTG Presents Science in a Magical Way

By Dana Bitzer

On January 30, four members of the Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG) performed science demonstrations at the Clare Primary School for children in grades 1 through 4. Approximately 400 children were entertained and amazed by the wonders of science through these demonstrations.

The demonstrations provided examples of the surface tension of water, acid/base reactions, differences in types of polymers, solid-to-gas phase changes, and the Venturi effect. Each of the demos was performed as a magic trick and then explained with science. The demonstrations were very well received by teachers and students alike; the students were on their feet several times throughout the 40-minute performance.

Each teacher was given a packet containing science brochures, fish made of a hygroscopic film, and pig sponges. The brochures were sent home with the students so they could have some fun with science outside of the classroom. The other materials were for use in the classroom.

In addition, a single demonstrator did two smaller performances on February 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Midland and on February 19 for Girl Scout Troop #711.

MMTG would like to thank The Dow Chemical Company for donating the "Chemistry: The Enabling Science" brochures that were distributed to the students; Jim Steinbrunner of Superabsorbing Polymers TS&D of The Dow Chemical Company for donating the superabsorbant polymer that was used in the demonstrations; Cynthia Peck of Delta College for donating her time and multiple supplies for the demonstrations; and demonstrators' department supervisors for donating various supplies and supporting the demonstrators in their quest to bring science to children in a magical way.



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Career Services Offered at ACS Regional Meetings

From National ACS

Visit the Career Resource Center at these ACS regional meetings for an array of professional development programs and services. Features may include an employment clearinghouse (RECH), career management workshops, and one-on-one résumé critiques.

- Great Lakes Regional Meeting, May 31–June 1, Chicago, IL
- Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting, June 8–11, Princeton, NJ
- Northwest Regional Meeting, June 12–14, Bozeman, MT
- Northeast Regional Meeting, June 15–18, Saratoga Springs, NY

For more information, job seekers and employers can visit the ACS website www.chemistry.org/careers/calendar.html or call 1-800-227-5558 x6208.

Midland Section Annual Report Submitted

By Pat Cannady

The 2002 Annual Report of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society was prepared in January and February, 2003, and submitted to the ACS on February 15, 2003, by express mail. As last year's Midland Section Chair, I collected the input from the Section committee chairs (25 reports were submitted), the treasurer, and myself to prepare the summary of last year's activities. The services needed to prepare and submit the report were kindly donated by my workplace, Dow Corning Corporation.

This year, of the 30 or so sections in the report, only three were received by mail, the others were received by e-mail or were created electronically. As has been done before, the sections were assimilated, the final numbers were tallied, the report questionnaire was filled out, and nominations were filed for various ChemLuminary awards. The final report contained just under 200 pages, a little smaller than 2001, and a lot smaller than 2000. The time it took was around 60 hours of my time, plus the time it took for each of the other 24 reports to be generated. What would make a better, easier-to-prepare report? The people who seemed most at ease with preparing reports were the people who turned them in early (as early as November). I would advise this year's group of committee chairs to be thinking: "The job isn't done until I've written the report."

Revised Career Publications Now Available

From National ACS

Four popular, free ACS Department of Career Services publications have been updated recently and are now available. They include:

- *Employment Guide for Foreign-Born Chemists in the United States*, 2nd edition. The new version of this guide includes a section covering changes in U.S. immigration laws following the September 11, 2001, attacks.
- *The Interview Handbook*. This publication discusses the various techniques and skills needed for a successful interview. This updated edition discusses how cultural “fit” is an important criterion in how chemists are hired by U.S. employers.
- *Tips on Résumé Preparation*. Readers of this text will find a discussion of the most successful types of résumés with samples of each. The new edition includes tips on marketing your résumé in the electronic market.
- *Targeting the Job Market*. This publication focuses on several components of targeting the job market: personal assessment, identifying market trends, credentials, conducting research, and networking.

All four publications can be obtained by either downloading from <http://chemistry.org/careers> or requesting them from ACS Office of Society Services at help@acs.org.

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

By Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Historian

- **30 Years Ago This Month**—Dr. Turner Alfrey Jr. was announced as the recipient of the 1973 ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry in recognition of his outstanding contributions to polymer chemistry.
- **20 Years Ago This Month**—A story in letters and pictures described a contribution of \$2000 from the Midland Section to the Saginaw Community Cultural Center operated by Delta College to aid in the construction of a laboratory for teaching chemistry to students (mainly African-American and Hispanic) who might not otherwise have been able to attend college.
- **10 Years Ago This Month**—Joan Sabourin reported on the Region V Odyssey of the Mind competition held at Delta College on February 27, 1993. About 950 students on 135 teams participated in this annual international creative problem-solving competition.

Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

- April 7 Prof. Marshall Werner, Lake Superior State University, "Thiaminase: Isolation From Fish and Development of a Novel Fluorescent Microplate Assay," CMU Seminar Series, Central Michigan University, Dow 175, 4:00 p.m., reception preceding in Dow 264 at 3:30 p.m. (Anton Jensen, 989-774-3125).
- April 14 Midland Section board meeting, Delta College, Midland Center, Room 12, 7:00 p.m.
- April 14 Prof. Alexander A. Bagatur'yants, Russian Academy of Sciences, "Integrated approach to atomistic simulations of thin film growth, structure, and properties," CMU Seminar Series, Central Michigan University, Dow 175, 4:00 p.m., reception preceding in Dow 264 at 3:30 p.m. (Anton Jensen, 989-774-3125).
- May 5 Deadline for June issue of *The Midland Chemist*
- May 12 Midland Section board meeting, Delta College (on campus), room to be determined, 7:00 p.m.

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