



Recognition Dinner Celebrates Science Achievements

The 2004 Outstanding High School Chemistry Students (top), Chemical Technology Student (middle), and College Chemistry Students (bottom) were among the many students, teachers, and others recognized for their achievements in and contributions to chemistry-related science. See pg. 2.

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*Chair Column***Local Section Awards Presented**

On April 22, the Midland Section of ACS sponsored the Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner. The details of the awards presented are included in this issue and on the Midland Section ACS web site (<http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/>). The Section presented awards to National Chemistry Olympiad representatives; outstanding high school and college chemistry students; science education volunteers; and outstanding teachers in elementary school and middle school science education, high school chemistry education, and college chemistry. The section also presented the award for outstanding achievement in promotion of diversity in chemistry and related sciences and engineering. This award is coordinated by the Minority Affairs Committee, which is chaired by Lin Dorman. The award for the outstanding college chemical technology student (sponsored by the Mid-Michigan Technician Group) was presented by Wendy Mathews. Also recognized were six 50-year members. We congratulate all the awardees who have worked so diligently and achieved so much.

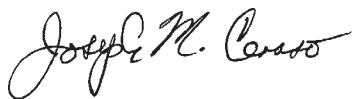


Joe Ceraso, Chair
ACS Midland Section

I personally want to congratulate the 2004 Awards Committee, which is chaired by Petar Dvornic of the Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI), for an excellent job with superb execution. The committee members are Steve Keinath and Steve Kaganove from MMI; Mike Ferritto from Dow Corning; Deb Mendrick, Wendy Mallory, Wendy Mathews, Pam Slavings, and Paul Popa from The Dow Chemical Company; and Mary Teklenburg from Central Michigan University. These volunteers were fortunate to have excellent administrative help from Randi Merrington and Dawn Wright of MMI.

In other news, our Science Literacy Committee has secured a \$60,000 grant from Dow Corning Foundation. Part of the money will be spent on a Saginaw Bay Watershed water sampling and analysis project that will cover eight counties and be conducted by high school students from the area. The students will sample and perform the analyses in conjunction with the local schools. The students will be doing the complete job—sampling, testing, data collection, and reporting—using EPA standard methods. This will be a four-year program with the first year as a baseline. In addition, this committee has secured an additional \$50,000 from Dow Corning Foundation to administer forty \$1000 grants and 50 \$200 grants

for K–12 teachers who have requested science projects. The ACS Science Literacy Committee will administer and oversee these projects. We are especially thankful to Dow Corning Foundation for this financial support and to the Science Literacy Committee, which includes Mike Ferritto (chair), Gretchen Kohl, John Blizzard, Joan Sabourin, Paul Popa, Marv Tegen, Chuck Roth, Dick Skochdopole, Janet Smith, Tod Hogan, and Joe Kchodl.



Special ACS Tour

Pearls, A Natural History

By Don Miller

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at the Midland Center for the Arts is sponsoring the exhibition, “Pearls, A Natural History,” until July 18, 2004. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12:00 noon–6:00 p.m. Sunday. The Center is closed on Monday. There are two guided tours per day, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tours last approximately one hour; however, attendees may remain at the exhibition until closing time. Admission to the exhibition is \$11.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, ages 2–12. For museum members, the cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

The ACS Midland Section has arranged a special tour on June 16 at 4:00 p.m. for ACS members, spouses, and guests. If you are interested in this tour, please contact Don Miller (989-832-8270, donmiller@tm.net) and meet at the MCFTA front desk on June 16 at 4:00 p.m. If we have 28 people on the tour, the admission will be \$10.00 per person.

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Outstanding Science Achievers, Contributors Recognized

*By Petar Dvornic, Deb Mendrick, and Ann Birch
Photos by Mike Ferrito and John Blizzard*

The 13th Annual Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner was held on April 22. This dinner recognizes students, educators, volunteers, ACS members, and others for their achievement in or contribution to science in the Midland Section area. The dinner was held in the atrium of Dow 47 Building in Midland and was attended by 116 people. The event began with opening remarks by the 2004 Section Awards Committee chair, Petar Dvornic, and 2004 Midland Section chair, Joe Ceraso. Congratulations to all of the awardees!

U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

John Lorand presented the awards to:

Andrew Britt	AuGres-Sims High School
Steven Dittenber	AuGres-Sims High School
Mark Bourne	H.H. Dow High School
Jeffrey Ermak	H.H. Dow High School
Stephen Johnson	Midland High School
Michael O'Neal	Midland High School
Hanqing Zhao	Mt. Pleasant High School
Kyle Barriger	Nouvel Catholic Central High School



U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad award winners (left to right): Mark Bourne, Jeffrey Ermak, Stephen Johnson, Hanqing Zhao, Kyle Barriger.

Outstanding High School Chemistry Students

Mike Ferritto presented the awards to:

Lindsay Allen	Clare High School
Alaine Dopp	Midland Bullock Creek High School
Megan Fojtik	Bay City John Glenn High School
Erin Griffore	Merrill High School
Daniel Groves	Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy
Ashley Hardin	Frankenmuth High School
Steve Jahn	Saginaw Arthur Hill High School
Ryan Kanine	Shepherd High School
Annette Kosin	Chesaning Union High School
Connie Ofori-Dankwa	Nouvel Catholic Central High School
Ishan Roy	Midland H.H. Dow High School
Autumn Trombka	Midland High School



Outstanding High School Chemistry Students attending the recognition dinner.

Outstanding College Chemistry Students

Petar Dvornic presented the awards to:

Christopher Crouse	Central Michigan University
Jeffrey Johnson	Delta College
Kenneth Kearns, Jr.	Saginaw Valley State University
Jana Mapes	Alma College—Biochemistry
Michelle Merz	Alma College



Outstanding College Chemistry Students (left to right): Michelle Merz, Jana Mapes, Christopher Crouse, Jeffrey Johnson, Kenneth Kearns, Jr.

Outstanding College Chemical Technology Student

Wendy Mathews presented the award to Fred Jackson, Delta College.

Outstanding Achievement in Elementary Level Science Education

Steve Kaganove presented the award to Joan Roels, first-grade teacher at Cook Elementary School. Mrs. Roels was nominated by several happy parents who described her as exceptional in communicating with her students and making them highly enthused about science. She is known for being very interactive with hands-on activities and experiments: "It was wonderful to see my child so enthused over something he learned at school that he had to share it with his family immediately." (This was a simple experiment involving the use of reagents to



Fred Jackson (right) receives the Outstanding College Chemical Technology Student award from Wendy Mathews.



Joan Roels (right) receives the Outstanding Achievement in Elementary Level Science Education award from Steve Kaganove.

suspend a paper clip in mid-air.) “My son is thrilled to go to school and has developed a love for learning.”

Outstanding Achievement in Middle Level Science Education

Mary Tecklenburg presented the award to Christine Brillhart, North-east Middle School. Ms. Brillhart is described as an excellent teacher who is dedicated to professionalism and especially her students—a leader among the staff. Her emphasis on active learning is particularly manifested in the science expo that she organizes with her students who prepare exhibits and invite elementary students and the general public to demonstrations. She obtained a Gerstacker minigrant for this project. Other projects involved thematic exhibits such as “Space Museums,” “Rain Forest,” Time Machine,” and “Forensic Lab.” She also conducts “Crime Scene,” a two-week project in the eighth grade where students solve a make-believe crime using forensic science.



Christine Brillhart (right) receives the Outstanding Achievement in Middle Level Science Education award from Mary Tecklenburg.

Outstanding Achievement in High School Chemistry Teaching

John Blizzard presented the award to Doug Grezeszak, chemistry and physics teacher at Ogemaw Heights High School. Mr. Grezeszak was instrumental in bringing National Chemistry Week and Earth Day into Ogemaw County, which gained national recognition. For “The Atmosphere and Beyond” program in 2004 he recruited 1206 students (out of the county’s 3000) and 46 teachers. Fifty-two Ogemaw County high school chemistry students performed science demonstrations and explained science principles—even the Michigan State Police post chief was involved! Mr. Grezeszak is also a track coach who uses science to help athletes. For example, he made stu-



Doug Grezeszak (right) receives the Outstanding Achievement in High School Chemistry Teaching award from John Blizzard.

dents scientifically determine the optimum approach to the discus throw. He is doing this in a county where only 6% of the population have college degrees and which is in the lowest 10% of Michigan per capita income. Comments from students: "I always seem to walk out of his class with a clear understanding of what he taught." "...impeccable character and a great educator." "...because of him I have had easier time in all my classes."

Outstanding Achievement in College Chemistry Teaching

Bob Howell presented the award to Professor Katherine Blystone, Central Michigan University. Prof. Blystone has taught CHM 101 "Armchair Chemistry" for over 10 years to non-science students. It is exceptionally difficult to interest students in science when it is not their major.

Prof. Blystone excels at this. She received the best teacher award from CMU a couple of years ago and is in demand to give her class demonstrations outside of CMU. She always has one of the largest waiting lists for her course. Some comments: "She is a dynamo in the classroom...able to engage the students to do things that they had no intention of doing." "This is teaching at its best." "Kathy is the kind of teacher this award was meant to honor."



Katherine Blystone (right) receives the Outstanding Achievement in College Chemistry Teaching award from Bob Howell.

2004 Science Education Volunteer

Steve Keinath presented the award to Jan Zanyk of The Dow Chemical Company. Ms. Zanyk gives four 40-minute science sessions each week to

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the 1st/2nd grade combination class at Siebert Elementary School in Midland. She's been characterized by the classroom teacher as being one of those rare people who "have the gift of presenting technical information to an elementary audience" and by a student as: "She is really smart! I didn't really like science before, but all the experiments we've done are helping me get into it."



Jan Zanyk (right) receives the 2004 Science Education Volunteer award from Steve Keinath.

Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering

Joan Sabourin presented the award to Smallwood Holoman, Jr., of The Dow Chemical Company. Please see article and photograph on pg. 10.

Salutes to Excellence

Joan Sabourin presented Salutes to Excellence awards to Michael Garlick and Claire E. Grant. Please see article and photographs on pg. 12.

50-Year Members of the American Chemical Society

Joe Ceraso presented 50-year member awards to:

Carlos M. Bowman

M. Peter Dreyfuss

Arthur G. Smith

Bart J. Bremmer

Douglas E. Leng

Richard A. Stuckey

These awardees will be profiled in the August 2004 issue of *The Midland Chemist*.

50-year member Bart Bremmer (right).



50-year member Pete Dreyfuss (right).



50-year member Art Smith.

The 2004 Midland Section Awards Committee includes the following volunteers:

Peter Dvornic, Chair, Michigan Molecular Institute

Steve Keinath, Michigan Molecular Institute

Steve Kaganove, Michigan Molecular Institute

Mike Ferritto, Dow Corning

Deb Mendrick, Dow Chemical

Wendy Mallory, Dow Chemical

Wendy Mathews, Dow Chemical

Pam Slavings, Dow Chemical

Paul Popa, Dow Chemical

Mary Tecklenburg, Central Michigan University

The Awards Committee would like to thank Randi Merrington and Dawn Wright of MMI, who provided invaluable assistance with this program. We would literally not be able to do it without them.

Student Affiliates Active at CMU

By David Baker and Sharyl Majorski-Briggs

This last year has seen a bonanza of activities by the student affiliates of Central Michigan University. President Diana Crossan and Faculty Advisor Sharyl Marjorski-Briggs have been very busy keeping their students active and engaged. There has been tremendous growth and enthusiasm in student affiliate membership. The students have done demonstrations for incoming students, at local schools, and for the chemistry department at CMU. Part of the fun was enhanced by wearing specially designed jerseys at all of their events. In order to encourage enthusiasm for chemistry by younger chemists they have become more active with the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), participating in paintball and bowling and planning to invite them to their end-of-the-year picnic. During National Chemistry Week, the affiliates group ran a food drive for the soup kitchen of Isabella County. During the fall semester, many of the affiliates made that arduous and dangerous trek from Mount Pleasant to Midland to attend the Fall Scientific Meeting in Midland where many of the freshmen and sophomores in the group had their first experience at a science conference. In the fall they also had a picnic, although the much-anticipated softball game was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Over the winter break, some of the group spent a week in New York City sightseeing and over spring break they went to Chicago for Pittcon.

Holoman Receives Diversity Award

By Lin Dorman

The Midland Section Minority Affairs Committee presents a biannual award for "Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering." Criteria for receiving this Award include teaching, mentoring, serving as a role model, and active and sustained participation in organizations that support diversity which have had a demonstrable impact on the promotion of diversity in chemistry, related sciences, and engineering. The award recipient for 2004 is Smallwood Holoman, Jr.



Smallwood Holoman, Jr., (right) receives the 2004 Diversity Award from Joan Sabourin.

Smallwood works at The Dow Chemical Company, where he is the Dow Promise Manager. Dow Promise is an initiative to mobilize The Dow Chemical Company to positively impact and make a long-term contribution to African-American communities near Dow sites. In this role, Smallwood works with community leaders and teachers to produce programs that promote not only science and technology, but also the educational development of students and teachers alike. He has been active in this program since the inception of Dow Promise and has been instrumental in keeping its programs supported by Dow, and keeping the pipelines filled with Dow volunteers. One of the programs supported by Dow Promise includes the HOSTS (Help One Student To Succeed) mentorship program. This program is aimed at increasing students' ability to read at Claytor Elementary in Saginaw and partners volunteers with a student for 45 minutes/week. The results have been amazing! Smallwood's commitment to ensuring the program has the resources to continue is a tribute to his commitment to helping children succeed.

He has also been very active in NOBCCChE (National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers), both nationally and locally. He has served as president of the Midland Chapter and national board member, and currently serves as the

national chair for the Science Fair program. The Science Fair brings students from all over the country together to compete at the NOBCCChE national conference annually. It is no small feat to coordinate this effort!

Smallwood received his BS in chemistry from Norfolk State University. He works with the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program and the Midland County Council on Aging, in addition to his Dow Promise activities. He is a member of the Delta College Board of Trustees and Central Michigan University Chippewa Club, and is a devoted member of Faith Ministries Baptist Church.

Call for Posters

2004 Fall Scientific Meeting

Please consider presenting a poster at the Fall Scientific Meeting, which will be held on a Friday in October this year. Abstracts are being accepted now through September 15, 2004. All areas of chemistry and chemistry-related topics are invited. For more information about the meeting check <http://membership.acs.org/m/midl/fsm04/index.htm>

Abstract Format

Each abstract should contain; title, author(s) and author(s) affiliations, and abstract body text. The format specifics:

- Single spacing with blank line between title and author and between author and abstract body text
- Times New Roman size 12 font (or comparable)
- Submitted as an e-mail attachment in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format.
- 225 words or fewer
- Presenting author's name underlined (Note: The e-mail address of the submitter will be the default contact person for all additional information.)

E-mail abstracts to: vohs1jk@cmich.edu. Address questions to: Jason Vohs, Department of Chemistry, Central Michigan University, vohs1jk@cmich.edu.

Do you want to help with the planning of this year's meeting? Contact either Dale or Buford and we'll get you involved.

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(989) 636-4189

Midland Section Presents Salutes to Excellence



By Joan Sabourin

Salutes to Excellence is an award program that recognizes the positive impact on everyday life made by a product of chemistry, a practitioner of chemistry, or a place of importance in chemistry. A central part of the program is the presentation of a commemorative plaque, furnished by the American Chemical Society Office of Community Affairs, for the chemistry achievement being honored.

At the Midland Section Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner, two practitioners of chemistry were presented with a Salute to Excellence Award.

Mike Garlick has had a positive impact on the lives of many through his persona as "Dr. Slime." He has spent many hours developing and assembling interactive demonstrations that bring chemistry to life for hundreds of K-12 students and beyond. Over the years he has continued his participation in National Chemistry Week at Sci-Fest where his area has always been packed with young and old alike.



Mike Garlick (right) receives a Salute to Excellence from Joan Sabourin.

Claire E. (Geni) Grant is recognized for her dedication to the science and art of chemistry through aviation. She has participated in several Midland Section celebrations of National Chemistry Week at Sci-Fest. Her area of expertise was shared with enthusiasm at last year's Sci-Fest under the theme of "The Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond." She continues to help make science through aviation a part of many lives.



Claire Grant (right) receives a Salute to Excellence from Joan Sabourin.

Section Records Archived for Future Use

By Wendell L. Dilling

The Midland Section Historian Committee is composed of three people who are charged with the safe keeping of the Section's archives. In addition to the historian (Wendell Dilling), other committee members are Robert E. Kohrman, who serves as the assistant historian, and Jennifer A. Walton, who serves as a committee member. Bob was instrumental in the use and display of archival materials during the Section's 75th anniversary in 1994, and Jennifer keeps track of archival materials that are on display at various locations and helps members find the archives.

One duty of the historian is to ensure that Section records are not lost and are maintained in good order. The Section's archives are stored in the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University. A visit to the archives at least once a year is made to check on their condition. The Clarke Library has many archival materials and does a superb job of maintaining them. The most recent visit to the Section's archives was made in April this year at the time when additional materials from 2003 were added to the archives. This was duly reported to the Board of Directors at the 2004 May board meeting.

The materials added to the archives this year are typical of those added in recent years. They included such items as the 2003 annual report, minutes of the board of directors meetings for 2003, copies of pages that were on the Section's web site in 2003, a complete set of issues of *The Midland Chemist* for 2003, and the 2003 nonprofit corporation information update. Other items were program booklets and flyers from various 2003 Section activities such as the Fall Scientific Meeting, the Spring Science Education Recognition Dinner, Professional Day and other activities at the Midland County Fair, and the Science Literacy program.

Staff members of the Clarke Library, primarily Archivist Marian Matyn and student helpers, prepare an index of the materials in the Section's archives and update it each year when additions are made to the archives. The Section's archives dated from 1919 to 2003 now occupy 24 boxes and four oversized drawers. Within each box are numerous folders, which contain specific items. The index shows what materials are in each folder. The Section historian has a copy of this index and a copy is available in the Clarke Library. The Section's archives are on deposit in the Clarke Library and are available for anyone, including non-ACS members, to look at in the library. Ownership of many archives in the Clarke Library has been transferred to the Library, but the Midland Section retains ownership of the Section's archives.

The Section's archives contain some very interesting materials includ-

ing in box 1, folder 2, the original charter issued to the Midland Section by National ACS and dated December 8, 1919. Also making very interesting reading is the Minute Book, 1920-September 21, 1936 in box 1, folder 8. What one learns from this minute book is that the early history of the Midland Section is the same as part of the history of The Dow Chemical Company.

Another responsibility of the Historian Committee is authorizing the loan of items from the archives for display within the Section. For example, the seven outstanding performance awards received by the Midland Section (for 1973, 1990-1994, and 1999) have been on display at Delta College for several years, and the award for 2001 has been on display at Central Michigan University for several years. Any Section member who would like to display such items at their work location should contact the historian (631-1621 or dilli1wl@mail.cmich.edu). Anyone who would like to look up information in the archives should contact Jennifer Walton (ehler1ja@mail.cmich.edu) or go directly to the Clarke Library.

For several years the Midland Section has made an annual contribution of \$100 to the Clarke Library as a token of thanks for processing and maintaining the Section's archives. This is essentially the entire budget for the Historian Committee. For this contribution the Section gets an ideal location to store and use the archival materials, and the Clarke Library gets a significant amount of archival material that can be used by anyone interested in research in nearly a hundred years of Michigan chemistry. This contribution is acknowledged in the Clarke Library's newsletter "Reflection from the Clarke."

Another activity of the historian in the past couple years has been the contribution of an article titled "In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*," to each issue of that publication. These notes briefly recount some items of interest in *The Midland Chemist* issue 10, 20, 30, and, just since April of 2004, 40 years prior to the current issue. These articles are meant to help us recall people, activities, or important events that occurred in the past history of the Section.

Finally, since the member interest survey was completed in 1999, the historian has used the Section's annual report to prepare a list of all the members and others who have served the Section in various capacities during that year. This list is given to the Membership Growth and Retention Committee to be added to the Section's member database. This database can serve as a source of information for recruiting members for new jobs, for presenting awards to members for service to the ACS, or for other purposes.

Chemical Technicians Celebrate!

Submitted by Connie Murphy and Bob Krystosek

Anniversaries are times to celebrate past accomplishments and consider future opportunities. 2004 marks the 40th anniversary of the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA), the 15th anniversary of the National Chemical Technician Award (NCTA), and the 10th anniversary of the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH). ACS is invited to join in the celebration, increasing the awareness of the role chemical technicians play in industry and the Society, and helping develop opportunities for increased involvement in the chemistry community.

The Celebration

In honor of these three anniversaries, a Presidential Event entitled “A Celebration of the Professional and Scientific Value of Chemical Technicians in the Society—We’ve Come a Long Way” will be held at the ACS National Meeting in August. Opening remarks by ACS President Charles Casey and a keynote address by ACS President-Elect William Carroll will be followed by two panel discussions. One will focus on the changing expectations for technicians and the ways in which technician education is responding. The second will feature previous NCTA winners, the impact of their accomplishments, and the changes they have experienced. The Presidential Event will be held on August 24 and is co-sponsored by the Committee of Corporation Associates. The Presidential Event will be followed by a reception. Past chairs of TECH and CTA and other key developers of these organizations and the NCTA will be recognized.

The Role of Chemical Technicians in Industry

The anniversary celebrations highlight how, with the ever-expanding growth of technology and chemical applications, the role of chemical technicians in the chemical process industry has made a dramatic paradigm shift. In past years, technicians were largely viewed as a “pair of hands” in the laboratory. By contrast, today’s technicians are important players in technology-business teams where they are required to think analytically, solve problems, use current technologies in a wide range of fields, communicate and report findings, manage multiple projects simultaneously, and plan for future directions. Whether employed in government or academic labs, the chemical industry or related businesses, chemical technicians are invaluable members of the scientific team. A common goal of technicians and their supporters is to continue increasing the awareness of the important contributions that chemical technicians make to the national economy and to society as a whole.

The Role of Chemical Technicians in the Society

The anniversary celebrations honor the milestones of technician involvement in ACS. Since 1964, when the Committee on Technician Affairs (then the Committee of Technician Activities) was established, support for and involvement of chemical technicians has grown within ACS.

The Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) charter is to serve as the Society's governance body that represents and advances the interests of technicians. Over the past 40 years it has proven to be a catalyst for change, benefiting technician members and associates.

Technician Affiliate Groups (TAGs), the formation of which was an early CTA priority, provide a venue for technicians to become involved with their local sections. By 1972, twelve TAGs were planning programs, presenting continuing education activities, and publicizing the contributions of technicians to the local chemistry community.

The National Chemical Technician Award (NCTA) was established in 1989. The recipients of this annual award, listed on TECH's web at <http://members.aol.com/ACSDoCT/techhome.htm>, are now recognized at TECH dinners held at the Spring ACS national meetings.

The Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH) evolved from the National Conference of Chemical Technician Affiliates, a group that worked with CTA to organize symposia, instrument training workshops, and leadership training seminars. Granted probationary status in 1991, TECH attained full division status ten years ago in 1994. Along with planning programming for ACS meetings and maintaining communications with its members via a web site and newsletter, TECH has assumed the coordination of TAG activities.

Opportunities for Involvement

Chemical technicians, if encouraged to participate in Society activities, can play a valuable role. Inviting chemical technicians to join ACS is just the first step. Opportunities for professional development and recognition must be promoted. In addition to participating in the above activities, chemical technicians serve as councilors, regional meeting planners, and chairs of other committees. The key is identifying more areas at the local, regional, and national levels where these highly skilled scientific professionals can become involved. Chemical technicians have come a long way, but there are still more places to go!

You are cordially invited to attend the Presidential Event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA), the 15th anniversary of the National Chemical Technician Award, and the 10th anniversary of the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH), to be held at the ACS National Meeting on Tuesday, August 24.

227th National ACS Meeting

By Bob Howell

The 227th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society was held in sunny Anaheim, California, March 26–April 1, 2004. The meeting was one of the most successful ever held on the west coast with 14,141 total attendees present: 7,595 full members, 3,801 students, 2,801 exhibitors, and 467 guests. The exhibition was also large, with 314 exhibitors occupying 496 booths. Approximately 8,000 technical papers were presented. The employment clearinghouse was a beehive of activity with 1,282 job seekers competing for 271 positions posted by 121 employers. The ratio of job seekers to available positions reflects a dramatic turnaround from the situation a few years ago. In fact, unemployment among practitioners of the chemical sciences stands at 3.5%, an all-time high.

The Midland Section was in prominence at the Anaheim meeting. In addition to the hard-working councilors (Howell: Patents and Related Matters Committee, Polymer Education Committee, Polymer Nomenclature Committee, Organic Examination Committee; Kohl: various committees and the I&EC Division), several other Midland Section members were highlighted. Perhaps most prominently, Connie J. Murphy was elected to the Committee on Committees. This is a real accomplishment and reflects Connie's winning personality and aptitude for hard work as well as her political acumen. The candidates for District II director are Diane Schmidt and Thomas H. Lane (Midland). Individuals selected as candidates for director-at-large are David F. Eaton and Theodore E. Tabor (Midland). Judith Giordan will run as a petition candidate for this position. Angelo Cassar, currently Midland Section alternate councilor, was elected treasurer of the I&EC Division. Mike Owen and associates ran a symposium on organosilicon polymers. Kurt Brandstadt contributed an outstanding technical presentation to that symposium.

The Council elected F. Sherwood Rowland (Nobel Prize in chemistry; ozone depletion) and Isaiah M. Warner as candidates for 2005 ACS President-Elect. E. Anne Nalley will run as a petition candidate for this position. The Council meeting was briskly run under the direction of President Chuck Casey. President Casey has taken on academic employment as a major initiative for his presidential year. As an initial component of this effort a symposium on hiring was held in Anaheim. An emphasis of the symposium was that chemistry is broadening and the old definitions/subdisciplines no longer apply. For example, only about 30% of industrial positions for chemists are now listed in *C&EN*. The remainder are posted in more specialized publications. Even the advertisements in *C&EN* usually list non-traditional areas of chemistry: materials/poly-

mers/nanoscale/nanotechnology/biomaterials/nanoscale systems/green chemistry. The same is happening in the academic community. Of the last eight people hired into the Department of Chemistry at Princeton, *six had degrees in areas other than chemistry.*

The profile of people employed in the academic community is changing in other ways as well. Over the next ten years there will be a 38% increase in the need for post-secondary academic positions. The greatest need will be at community colleges and four-year institutions. However, there will be a much greater reliance on fixed-term faculty and graduate assistants. The number of tenure-track faculty will actually decline. Increasingly, positions in both academe and industry will be filled by individuals whose country of origin is not the U.S. Currently, 195 U.S. Ph.D.-granting institutions generate approximately 2,000 graduates annually; 1,200 of these are international students.

The academic employment initiative (AEI) will continue at the fall meeting in Philadelphia. It will feature a poster session at the Monday evening Sci-Mix in which candidates for employment will present papers. This represents an effort to provide candidates with exposure to the greatest number of potential employers. Two other actions reflect this response to the broadening nature of chemistry. At the fall meeting in Philadelphia the Committee on Science will sponsor a symposium entitled, "Strategic Responses to Changing Needs in Doctoral Education." During summer 2005, the Committee on Professional Training will begin a fundamental examination of the basic components of the B.S. degree in chemistry. Many B.S. degree programs are still fairly traditional and do not reflect the changes occurring in the profession. President-Elect Bill Carroll has adopted a focus on K-12 education, with emphasis on high school curriculum, as a special theme for his term.

A major item of discussion at the Council meeting was the proposed association with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Over the past several years AIChE has suffered severe financial reverses and found itself without resources to remain an independent organization. It had approached the ACS with a proposal for a merger of the two societies. However, over the past six months a number of actions (giving up expensive office space in New York City, major staff reduction, dissolution of pension funds, outsourcing publications to Wiley, reducing member services, etc.) has led to an improvement in its financial position. It is no longer interested in merging with ACS. However, the two organizations will pursue an alliance where they will remain separate but work collectively and cooperatively. The boards of the two organizations have agreed to explore potential programmatic, membership, and operational partnerships. AIChE is the younger and smaller (50,000 members) of the two or-

ganizations. About 8,000 individuals are members of both organizations.

Several items were reported at the Council meeting. The most positive was that the Society budget for the current year will be nearly balanced after a few years of significant deficits. The Society ended 2003 with a net deficit from ACS operations of \$64,000. For the first time in three years, the society's financial performance, including investment gains, resulted in an increase to unrestricted net assets. Dues for 2005 were set at the fully escalated rate of \$123. Year-end (2003) membership was 159,332, a decline of 1% over the previous year. However, student membership increased by 3.7% during the same period and the number of recent graduates that enrolled as full members increased by 50%. The ACS Scholars Program has awarded scholarships to more than 1,350 underrepresented minority students. Of the 508 program graduates, 195 have entered the chemical workforce and 221 have gone on to graduate school. Seventy-eight of these graduate students are in Ph.D. programs and seven have received Ph.D. degrees.

Welcome to New Midland Section Members!

By Connie Murphy

Welcome! to the following people who have either joined the American Chemical Society or transferred into the Midland Section during the past several months:

Thomas J. Delia

Kenneth W. Farminer

Bernadette S. Harkness

Melanie Heying

Anthony Kulick

Jennifer S. Thebo

David A. Wassmann

William D. Watson

Chad Whelton

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Call for Volunteers

Professionals Day Being Planned

Plans are moving forward for the Midland Section Professionals Day at the Midland County Fair, August 16, 2004, 4:00-7:00 p.m. The purpose of Professionals Day is to show appreciation to our members and their families and provide information on ACS, along with several of its affiliated groups, and their outreach to members and the public. The theme for the day will be "Health and Wellness," the National Chemistry Week program for 2004.

National Chemistry Week 2004

Health and Wellness



American Chemical Society

Midland Local Section

Professionals Day

There will be a free picnic for members and their families with hot dogs, chips, and drink, and also science demonstrations with:

Free popcorn

Free cotton candy

Free balloons

Free dunk tank

Free snow cones

Free moonwalk

Free face painting

Free pop

Discounted ride bands will be available for \$11 from 1:00 p.m. to closing.

We're starting to round up volunteers, so please contact Wendy Mathews (989-636-3934; wemathews@dow.com) if you're interested in helping with this fun event.

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

By Wendell L. Dilling, *Midland Section Historian*

- **40 Years Ago This Month**—The annual Ladies Nite Banquet will be held in the fall on Friday, September 25, at the Hi-Life Inn in Saginaw. The speaker will be Dr. Roger Aranjo from Corning Glass Works, who will speak on the subject of Newer Glass.
- **30 Years Ago This Month**—The 1974 Midland Section budget is \$5,125 which includes \$1,800 for *The Midland Chemist*, \$1,250 for Program, and \$250 for the Fall Scientific Meeting. (Note: The 2004 budget is \$56,920.)
- **20 Years Ago This Month**—The Science and Engineering Fair, hosted by the Saginaw Public School District, was held March 16–18, 1984, at the Ruben Daniels Lifelong Learning Center in Saginaw. This was the second year which featured a special award sponsored by the Midland Section of the ACS. D. Juen, T. Lane, G. Kolesar, Dr. G. Burns, Dr. S. Burns, P. Blatch, and Dr. G. Mbah donated time as judges.
- **10 Years Ago This Month**—Come join the fun at this year's MMTG Social Picnic on Thursday, August 4, 1994, 6:00 p.m. until dark at the Sheltered Pavilion B2 at the Plymouth Park, Midland.

In Memoriam

Nick Angelotti, a member of ACS for over 50 years, passed away a few months ago. His family graciously invited memorial gifts in his name to be donated to the Midland Section scholarship endowment for minority and underrepresented students. The scholarship fund has since received a number of donations in Nick's memory. What a great legacy!



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Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

- June 14 Midland Section board meeting, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Dow Science Bldg, Rm. 264, 7:00 p.m.
- July 5 Deadline for August issue of *The Midland Chemist*. There is no July issue.
- August 2 Deadline for September issue of *The Midland Chemist*.
- August 9 Midland Section board meeting, Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, location to be determined, 7:00 p.m. There is no July meeting.
- August 20 Professionals Day, Midland County Fair (Wendy Mathews, 989-636-3934)

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