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# THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

Volume 43, Number 2  
April 2006

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*The Midland Chemist* is published six times a year by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society.

American Chemical Society

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*Chair Column***Welcome to 2006! (at last)**

**A**s a nonnative Michigander, I'm still stunned by the half-year event called 'winter'. Some-time before Thanksgiving, we all hunker down, load in a sea voyage's worth of supplies, caulk the openings, call the relatives, and plan to sit tight until the hours of daylight surpass the five-hour mark once again. Then, 7 or 8 months later, we emerge from our lean-tos pale and blinking on that first nice day (the weekend of March 11 this year) and begin *really* thinking about the new year.\*



Buford Lemon, Chair  
ACS Midland Section

And what a 2006 the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society has in store for you!

First off, we'll be celebrating Earth Day on April 22 at our very own Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, with the theme "Dig it!" We'll be partnering with the Museum and other state and local volunteer and conservation organizations to give Earth Day a permanent place in town from which it can grow. If you haven't seen Sue the dinosaur yet, or will be stopping by the Duval Collection of Gems and Minerals, please bring your neighbors, kids, and friends by to see what Earth Day is all about. Special thanks to representatives from our local Section, Dow Chemical, and the A.B.D. Museum for their energy and commitment, and our local ACS members who just happen to sit on the national Earth Day Committee, Angelo Cassar and Gretchen Kohl.

Shortly thereafter, from May 16–20, the Midland Section will host the 2006 Central Regional Meeting in Frankenmuth, MI: "Diverse Interactions—The Elements of Success" (<http://www.crm2006.org>). This far-reaching meeting (both topic- and attendee-wise) begins with Jean-Michel Cousteau giving the opening plenary talk titled "Ecology, Economy, and the Sea" and continues to enlighten during its 5-day tenure. Sessions on Science in the Classroom, Portable Energy, Biotechnology, Nanocomposites, Data Mining, and others fill the meeting's slots, while the concomitant 39<sup>th</sup> Silicon Symposium and World Expo of Beer round out an amalgamation of science, interaction, networking, and fun! Many thanks to Kurt Brandstadt and his organizational committee for their incredible work and devotion to making this long-planned event a reality!

The rest of the year is no slouch either! Our outreach efforts continue

---

\* I exaggerate a bit—winter here just feels like 6 months of darkness on the Arctic tundra.

in the form of SciFest, National Chemistry Week, and the Water Warriors. In addition there are many other facets of our organization—Younger Chemists Committee, our new Women Chemists Committee, Mid-Michigan Technician Group, to name a few—and the many events we organize for *you*, our membership and community—that fill each month with our dedication to chemistry and science and interaction with our colleagues and friends. I invite each of you to stop by our website (<http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/default.htm>) for a more complete listing of all of our activities or e-mail me ([midland\\_acs\\_chair@yahoo.com](mailto:midland_acs_chair@yahoo.com)) with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Welcome to (the warm part of) 2006! I hope to see you out there soon!



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## Register Now for 2006 CRM

The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society is hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> ACS Central Regional Meeting & 39<sup>th</sup> Silicon Symposium in Frankenmuth, Michigan, from May 16–20, 2006. The conference promotes science, chemical education, and the diverse interactions between the scientific disciplines and represents a unique opportunity for researchers, scientists, educators, and students from around the region and the world to participate and interact. Cross-talk between disciplines, businesses, geographies, and educational venues contribute to the event's theme: "*Diverse Interactions: The Elements of Success.*"

Notably, Jean-Michel Cousteau, the eldest son of the late ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau and founder of the Ocean Futures Society, will open the conference with his presentation, "Ecology, Economy, and the Sea."

Dow Corning is a major sponsor for this event, which is chaired by Kurt Brandstadt, Ph.D. Organizers expect approximately 1300 participants for targeted technical sessions, award symposia, workshops, and highlighted activities, including:

- 4-Day Symposium: 4 plenary lectures and over 40 symposia and workshops
- 3-Day Exposition: ~40 participants from various companies and institutions
- Social Activities: Two banquets, BBQ including passes to the 2006 World Expo of Beer, student-professional mixer, spouse activities.

Register early for an opportunity to win an Apple iPod portable media player. Also check out the humor section of the website for unique "geek" comic relief ([www.crm2006.org](http://www.crm2006.org) or [www.siliconsymposium.com](http://www.siliconsymposium.com)). Created by Brian Marinik and Chris Sushynski, the Periodic Diverse Interactions Defense Team, or P.D.I.D.T. (pronounced p-diddy), features a cast of elemental superheroes (and some people you may recognize from the halls of Dow Corning). Led by General Wolfram Tungsten, they battle evil Dr. Einsteinium as he plots to create worldwide atomic instability. (Oh no, not that!)



## Special Symposium at CRM Features Local Chemistry History

By Wendell Dilling

A symposium on the History of Chemistry in the Midland ACS Section Area will be held at the 2006 Central Regional Meeting on Thursday afternoon, May 18, 2006, 2:30–5:00 p.m. This special symposium was organized by Dr. Wendell Dilling, Midland Section Historian. The history of chemistry in the Midland ACS Section area (Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Isabella, and Gratiot Counties in Michigan) dates back to the 1890s when Herbert H. Dow arrived in Midland. Planned presentations will trace some of the highlights of the company he founded and of some other important chemistry-related institutions, including Dow Corning Corporation and the departments of chemistry of the academic institutions in the Midland Section area. Dr. Etcyl H. Blair, vice-president of Health and Environmental Sciences at Dow from 1978 to 1986, will recount some of the history of The Dow Chemical Company. Dr. James R. Falender, vice-president of Science and Technology at Dow Corning Corporation from 1999 to 2000, will do the same for Dow Corning Corporation. Dr. Bob A. Howell, professor of chemistry (1976 to present), Central Michigan University, will describe some history of the chemistry departments at the colleges and universities in the Midland Section area, including Alma College, Central Michigan University, Delta College, and Saginaw Valley State University.



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*Call for Nominations*

## Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering Award

*By Minghui Chai*

**T**he Midland Section of the American Chemical Society presents the "Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering Award" biannually to a person or group residing in Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Isabella, or Gratiot County for outstanding achievement in enhancing the participation of underrepresented groups in the study of chemistry, related sciences, and engineering. The award will be presented at the ACS Science Education and Awards Banquet at the 2006 ACS Central Regional Meeting and 39th Silicon Symposium on May 17, 2006, at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth. (Please see pg. 8 and the CRM web site [www.crm2006.org](http://www.crm2006.org) for more information on the banquet.)

The criteria for 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. Members of the Midland Section Minority Affairs Committee are ineligible to receive this award. Previous recipients of this award include Richard Stringfield, George Gant, and Smallwood Holoman, Jr.

Recipients of this award will be selected by the Midland Section Awards Committee. Nominators should write a letter describing the attributes of the candidate. Supporting letters from students, colleagues, supervisors, and community leaders are strongly encouraged. The revised deadline for nominations is April 15, 2006. Electronic or fax submissions are acceptable. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, position, address, and phone number of the nominator.

Please submit nominations to:

Minghui Chai, Chair                      Phone: 989-774-3955; Fax: 989-774-3883  
ACS Awards Committee                Email: [chai1m@cmich.edu](mailto:chai1m@cmich.edu)  
Department of Chemistry  
Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

*Call for Nominations*

## **2006 Science Teaching and Education Volunteer Awards**

**E**ach year the Midland Section of the ACS presents awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the teaching of the chemical sciences. Nominations for the 2006 awards are invited. Awards are presented for Outstanding Achievement in the following areas:

- Elementary Level Science Education
- Middle Level Science Education
- High School Chemistry Teaching
- College Chemistry Teaching

Candidates for these awards must be educators at schools in the five-county geographical area of the Midland Section: Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw Counties.

A Science Education Volunteer of the Year award will be presented to an individual who makes a substantial contribution to science learning in the Midland Section through voluntary efforts.

Recipients of all awards will be selected by the Awards Committee. Nominators should write a letter indicating the award and describing the attributes of the candidate. Supporting letters from students, colleagues, supervisors, and community leaders are strongly encouraged. The revised deadline for nominations is April 15, 2006. Electronic or fax submissions are acceptable. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, position, address, and phone number of the nominator. Award recipients as well as high school and college student award recipients and Chemistry Olympiad winners will be honored at the ACS Science Education and Awards Banquet at the 2006 ACS Central Regional Meeting and 39th Silicon Symposium on May 17, 2006, at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth. (Please see pg. 8 and the CRM web site [www.crm2006.org](http://www.crm2006.org) for more information on the banquet.) The Awards Committee greatly appreciates the efforts involved in nominating someone and thanks you for helping to recognize deserving educators in our section.

*Parents: Does your child have a great science teacher? If so, consider nominating him/her and pass this flier along to that teacher's principal or section head.*

Please submit nominations to:

Minghui Chai, Chair                      Phone: 989-774-3955; Fax: 989-774-3883  
ACS Awards Committee                  Email: [chai1m@cmich.edu](mailto:chai1m@cmich.edu)  
Department of Chemistry  
Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

A list of previous recipients of the awards is provided below and on the following page.

### ***Elementary Level Science Education***

1992	Karen Ziemelis
1993	Lela Wade
1994	Constance A. Dullock
1995	Joan Klopčic
1996	Mark Hackbarth
1997	Denise Koppleberger, Cheryl Ruthig
1998	Barbara McGivern
1999	John Clark
2000	Sue Burtch, Robin Harshman-Rogers, Vicki Richard, Clare Jorgensen
2001	Cathy Egerer, Amy Hindbaugh-Marr
2002	Maureen Becker
2003	Leon Katzinger
2004	Joan Roels
2005	Curt Moses

### ***Middle Level Science Education***

1992	Derrell Steffen	1999	not awarded
1993	Laurie Hepinstall	2000	not awarded
1994	JoAnn Kraut	2001	not awarded
1995	not awarded	2002	Joel Mikusko
1996	Barbara J. Bibbee	2003	not awarded
1997	Gary J. Johnson	2004	Christine Brillhart
1998	not awarded	2005	not awarded

### ***High School Chemistry Teaching***

1989	Robert Wallace	1998	Dale Ressler
1990	Gary Ronk	1999	Robert Enszer
1991	not awarded	2000	Steven Kelly
1992	John Clark, Edna Konwinski	2001	William Stokes
1993	Mary Irons	2002	Robert Hansen
1994	Jo Ann Pelkki	2003	not awarded
1995	not awarded	2004	Doug Grezeszak
1996	Sandra Schafer	2005	Pamela Thompson
1997	Mary Fredell		

### ***College Chemistry Teaching***

1989	Joan Sabourin	1998	Thomas Delia
1990	Bob Howell	1999	Steven Keinath
1991	Robert Kohrman	2000	James Hutchison

**College Chemistry Teaching, cont.**

1992	Scott Hill	2001	Sandra Smith
1993	Ajit Sharma	2002	Margaret Hill
1994	Laura Vosejpka	2003	Dale Meier
1995	George Eastland	2004	Katharine Blystone
1996	Martin Spartz	2005	Ronald Sharp
1997	Philip Squatrito		

**Science Education Volunteer**

1992	Gregg Young	1999	William Albe
1993	Peter Bonk	2000	Karol Childs
1994	Peter Moehs	2001	Donald Petersen
1995	Gretchen Kohl	2002	Joan McMahon
1996	John Blizzard, Dick Van Effen	2003	John Blizzard
1997	Marvin Tegen	2004	Jan Zanyk
1998	Carlton Beyer	2005	Eldon Graham

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## ACS Science Education and Awards Banquet

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth

Frankenmuth, Michigan

**T**eachers and students will be recognized at this banquet for their outstanding achievements in science education.

The cost of the dinner is \$25.00 per person and includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, and beverage. Please respond by mail using the form below. Your banquet reservation request must be received by April 13, 2006. You may also register by e-mail ([brian.j.marinik@dowcorning.com](mailto:brian.j.marinik@dowcorning.com)) and pay by cash or check at the door. For further information, contact Margo McIvor at 989-496-8086.

To reserve a place at the banquet, return this form with payment by April 13, 2006, to Brian J. Marinik, 2006 CRM Treasurer, 2200 West Salzburg Road-CO42M2, Midland, MI 48686-0994.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ACS member? Y N

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment of \$25.00 per person. Checks should be payable to "2006 CRM".

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## Local Technologist Coauthors Book for Children

*Adapted with permission from DC Internal News, Oct. 20, 2005*

As a child, Patricia Moore wanted to see things that could not be seen with the naked eye. She wanted to know why metal rusts, how glue works, or why plants grow faster in certain soils. She fell in love with chemistry and never looked back.

Pat is the coauthor of *You Can Be a Chemist*, an illustrated children's book published in 2005. The book, with Judith Love Cohen and illustrations by David A. Katz, is one in a series that showcases people whose careers might encourage children to study math and science.

"I thought if this could touch a heart, or if this could encourage someone to think about chemistry, then I was glad to be able to bring in *the life* to it," said Pat, who is an S&T

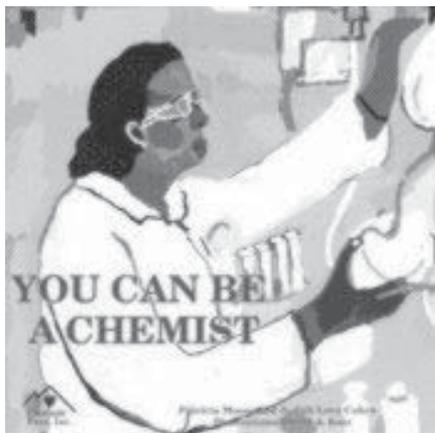
Technologist in the Pressure Sensitive Adhesive development group at Dow Corning.

As a part of National Chemistry Week, Pat spoke to children about chemistry at Eastside Middle School and Washington Elementary in Bay City on Oct. 19 and 20, 2005, respectively. She also signed copies of her book, which are available free of charge, courtesy of the Dow Corning Foundation. Another book signing, at Sci-Fest 2005 in October, drew many interested youngsters.

Pat, who is the youngest of seven children, was born in Monroeville, Alabama, in 1955. She was fascinated by chemistry at a young age and was encouraged to dream by her mother, Corrie. With only a fifth-grade education, Corrie's wish was to have all of her children graduate from high school. Pat had every intention of doing that, and much more.

She was partial to biology in high school, but her interest extended beyond living things to include how *all* materials worked in the world. Pat's passion for science secured her internships at a number of large chemical companies and enabled her to graduate from Central State University in Ohio in 1977 with a B.S. degree in chemistry. Her first job out of college was at Dow Corning. She hasn't left since.

In her first of 29 years at the company, she worked in a group of 35 engineers and chemists where she was the only woman. Since then, she has



worked in many different areas: Process Research and Engineering Group (in Carrollton); Analytical Department; Fluids, Resins and Process Industries; Fluids and Resins Expertise Center (in Midland); Central Research & Development Reinforcement Expertise Center.

Pat is exceptionally busy outside of the laboratory. In addition to speaking to elementary, middle, and high school children and judging local science and engineering fairs, she also ministers several times a year to residents of a drug rehabilitation facility. She raises money for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Midland and frequently serves as a *doula*, which is a person who helps young girls throughout the pregnancy, both during delivery and then afterward as a mentor.

As a member of Apostolic Pentecostal Temple Church in Midland, Pat volunteers her time as the World Missions Director, the Uplift Singles Coordinator, the leader of the Women's Jail Ministry, a Prayer Ministry leader, and somehow finds the time to teach the young adult Sunday school class for ages 15–21.

Pat was one of four Dow Corning recipients of the Martin Luther King award in 2006. She has accepted an invitation to be the featured speaker at the "Women In Chemistry" luncheon during the 2006 ACS Central Regional Meeting in May in Frankenmuth.



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*Company Profile*

## QuadSil: New Company Focuses on Silicone and Silane R&D

*By David Baker*

**Q**uadSil™ Inc. is a silicone and silane research, development, and consulting company. The “Sil” in the company name represents the market focus on silicon-based materials, and “Quad” represents the four founders of the company. It is based in a 5,000-ft<sup>2</sup> facility located at 210 Arrow Cove in Midland. The main focus of the company is on contract research and development.

Their major customer is Dow Corning, with whom they work very closely on both existing materials and new business opportunities. Many of their processes and formula-

tions use Dow Corning products and starting materials. QuadSil also works with clients in product prototyping to modify and develop existing materials. The facilities in Midland can handle the preparation of samples and materials in 5- to 50-gallon quantities; larger quantities are outsourced to the client’s manufacturing facility.

QuadSil has a wide array of equipment for polymer processing, including single fiber extruders, injection molders, and high temperature mixers. These capabilities are complemented with high pressure reactors, high torque stirrers, and Parr hydrogenators for polymer synthesis. Their facilities also have mechanical testing equipment, including an Instron tensiometer and an impact tester.

QuadSil employs eight silicone experts who are ideally suited as consultants to the silicone industry. These consultants provide a variety of services concerning numerous materials—from personal care products to adhesives, binders and coatings; catalysis and curing of materials; and blending and processing of polymers

A review of their business capabilities profile provides a broad outline



*One of the first-class labs at QuadSil Inc.*

of their fields of expertise, which include polymer blends for adhesives, microencapsulation, hydrogels, and heterophase polymer systems. For more information about QuadSil's services and research opportunities, contact John Blizzard at 1-888-782-3745.

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## **Eight Weyenberg Grants Awarded in 2005**

**T**he Midland Section offers small travel grants to help students present their work at scientific meetings. Since 1999, the grant has been known as the Donald R. Weyenberg Memorial Student Travel Grant in honor of Don Weyenberg, a pioneering research chemist who strongly promoted science and believed in the value of students attending scientific meetings and conferences to present their work. During 2005, eight travel grants of \$250 each were given to students from universities in the five-county area of the Midland Section.

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## **Welcome! to New Midland Section Members**

*By Connie Murphy*

**W**elcome to the following people who have recently either joined the American Chemical Society or transferred into the Midland Section.

- Gregory Becker
- Mary Ann Jones
- Duncan C. Harter
- Phil Sheridan
- Krishnamoorthy Kuppannan



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## Krystosek Receives National Chemical Technician Award for 2006

*By Ann Birch*

**W**e are pleased to announce that the 2006 National Chemical Technician Award is being presented to Robert Krystosek, a senior research technologist at The Dow Chemical Company and member of the Midland Section of ACS and the Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG).

The National Chemical Technician Award was established in 1989. It is presented annually by the ACS Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH) to a chemical technician who has demonstrated an extremely high degree of professionalism. Criteria used to judge the award include technical skills, communication skills, safety, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. Additional professional and community activities are also considered.

Bob received an A.A.S. degree in chemical technology from Milwaukee Area Technical College in 1981. He began work at Dow that same year in the Materials Testing Laboratory. Since then he has developed a wide range of technical expertise, from fibers and dielectric films to homogeneous catalysis and combinatorial chemistry. He is a strong technical communicator, as evidenced by his many internal technical reports and external presentations at national meetings. He is a coauthor of a U.S. patent and has received seven Dow special recognition awards. In 2003 Bob received the Outstanding Chemical Technician Award from the Midland Section.

But technical abilities are not all that it takes to be recognized at such a high, national level. According to one nomination letter: "In addition to his technical achievements, what sets Bob apart as an exceptional professional are his extraordinary leadership, communications, interpersonal, organizational, and mentoring skills.... He takes pride in his chosen profession and takes an active role at the national level of the ACS." From another letter: "He is one of the reasons I decided to stay in my group. Bob has a personality that makes you glad that he is one of your team members. He is willing to help others and has a huge network of contacts to help out when problems at times seem hopeless."

Bob has a long and active history with ACS and TECH, culminating in



2004 when he served as Division of Chemical Technicians chair. Divisional activities under his term as chair resulted in the receipt of two Chemluminary Awards for TECH at the fall 2005 national ACS meeting. He also participated in two external career development panel discussions for technicians. Bob has also supported fellow technicians by serving as a full member of the Committee on Technician Affairs, chairing a strategic planning committee, and serving as Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) liaison.

In his most recent work at Dow, Bob implemented facilities and engineering changes to add new polar chemistry capabilities to Dow's high-throughput research efforts, positively affecting the R&D programs of several other Dow businesses. This work was presented via two technical posters. Bob achieved Six Sigma Green Belt certification in 2004, working on two Six Sigma projects concurrently.

In a support letter regarding Bob's nomination, a technical leader at Dow summed up Bob's attributes in this way: "Bob embodies what a chemical technician should strive to be and I believe he is most deserving of this award."

Bob will receive the National Chemical Technician Award and a \$1000 honorarium while on an expense-paid trip to the spring national ACS meeting, March 2006. The award is sponsored by S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.



Living.  
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## Thomas Returns for Second Project SEED

By Peggy Hill

**R**yan Thomas was the Midland Section's sole Project SEED student in 2005, returning for a second summer of research under David Karpovich's direction at Saginaw Valley State University this past June. David's group has been working on exploring low-cost biological materials as sorbents for heavy metal cations.

Ryan's projects, spanning over two summers, involved both dried distiller's grain and cattails, determining their respective capacities to remove copper, lead, cadmium, and nickel cations from aqueous solution. Ryan used ICP-mass spectrometry to measure metal cation concentrations of test solutions before and after treat-



*A 2004 photo of Ryan Thomas during an earlier SEED program.*

ment with biosorbent material. He receives high praise from his mentor, David Karpovich, for his excellent aptitude for creative, independent work and his ability to work as part of a larger team.

In between his two research summers, Ryan completed his senior year at John Glenn High School with high honors in both academics and athletics. Graduating as valedictorian of his class, Ryan held an outstanding record of achievement in his classes. Ryan was also captain of his high school football team and earned positions on the *Bay City Times* Dream Team and the *Detroit Free Press* Division III All-State Team. He was also awarded the Coca-Cola Golden Helmet Award given for excellence in both academics and athletics.

Ryan was one of about 20 students who received a Project SEED scholarship for college. He is now in his freshman year at Saginaw Valley State University and is planning to major in chemistry.

## In Memoriam

*Adapted with permission from the Mount Pleasant Morning Sun*

### Kenneth Magnell

**D**r. Kenneth Robert Magnell, 67, a chemistry professor emeritus at Central Michigan University, died February 4, 2006.

Born in Detroit, he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemistry from Wayne State University and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Minnesota. In 1970, he joined the faculty at Central Michigan University where he remained until his retirement in 2003. His early research was in the area of transition metal coordination chemistry. In 1981, he spent a sabbatical year at York University in Toronto.

Ken taught a variety of courses during his career, including upper level courses in inorganic chemistry. His focus, however, was in the area of general chemistry. Later in his career, he became active in the development of software for chemical education. This interest led to a sabbatical at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997 that culminated in the publication of a program for students to create Lewis electron dot structures interactively as part of the *JCE Software General Chemistry Collection* (7th Edition).

According to Peggy Hill, a former colleague of Ken at CMU: “Ken was very committed to undergraduate education. He developed computer-based visual images of chemical reactions and processes so that students could better picture the ideas he wanted to teach. He was also very caring about students. He went out of his way to assist them when there were difficulties to overcome. In one instance, Ken spent extra time and effort with a blind student to make sure that she understood the material and had ways to “visualize” the concepts.”

The son of a pharmacist, Ken served as the undergraduate pre-pharmacy adviser for nearly three decades, as well as on numerous department and university committees. Following his retirement, Ken enjoyed traveling by motor home to visit family, including a stepson in Alaska. He was active in his church and was an avid volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, five children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two brothers, and a sister. He joined ACS in 1967. Ken set up the first Midland Section website and was one of the early preceptors for the Project SEED program in the Midland Section.

---

## In Memoriam

*Adapted with permission from the Midland Daily News*

### Thomas Hofelich

**D**r. Thomas C. Hofelich, 52, died on March 11, 2006. Tom was born in Troy, NY, and he grew up in the town of Sand Lake, NY. He graduated with a B.S. degree in chemistry from Clarkson University (Potsdam, NY) in 1975 and a Ph.D. degree in physical organic chemistry from the State University of New York (Buffalo, NY) in 1980. Tom worked two years as a post-doc at Duke University prior to joining Dow in 1982 in the Chemical Processes Laboratory. He joined the Dow Analytical Laboratory in 1983 as a member of the Thermal Analysis group, and he spent the rest of his career working in that group. Tom specialized in calorimetric analysis applied to industrial chemical problems. Tom was recognized for his leadership in the development and application of calorimetric techniques to characterize reactive systems, including the development and commercialization of the Two Drop Calorimeter. He also developed in-situ thermochemical processes for analysis and applied thermoanalytical techniques in the assessment of runaway reaction hazards. More recently he worked on high throughput calorimetry, microcalorimetry, and product lifetime prediction.

Some of Tom's professional awards include Christenson Memorial Calorimetry Award, Bill Doyle Loss Prevention Award, Vernon A. Stenger Analytical Sciences Award, Dow R&D Michigan Analytical Scientists Award, Dow R&D Analytical Sciences Team Work Award, and numerous P.A. Taylor Creativity Awards.

Tom avidly enjoyed golf, tea, haiku, technology, and cooking and was also an accomplished musician enjoying classic, blues, jazz, folk, and rock. He played with the DJam Jazz Ensemble and the Santa Fe Guitar Quartet and volunteered with ACT-SO, a community-based jazz group for youth. Dr. Brad DeRoche, chair of the music department at Delta College, said, "Tom was a very dear friend to me, as well as to many others in the community. His personality was such that you could not forget him! Always so quick with a joke or comment." Angelo Cassar, a member of the Midland Section, was a colleague of Tom's in the local classical guitar society, and remembers Tom as a happy, jovial individual. Tom also served on the Midland Zoning Board of Appeals and on the organizing board of the Currie Golf Course Players Association.

Tom is survived by his wife, Marabeth, his children Alicia and Marty Hofelich, and his stepchildren Russell and Lauren LaBarge, as well as other family members. Tom joined ACS in 1977.

## What's Happening with the Mid-Michigan Technician Group?

By Dana Fuerst

What is constant around us? CHANGE! At the first lunch seminar of 2006, members of the Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG) learned about change and how to manage it. Gene Anderson's presentation "Endings, Beginnings and Bumps In Between" was an excellent way to learn about the stresses associated with change and the ever-changing role of the chemical technologist. Gene's presentation brought humor to a subject that is sometimes overwhelming. Participants learned that even when change is wanted, there is still stress associated with it.

The next speaker event is in the process of being planned. "Bragging Rights" will be presented by Annie Walker, a career/personal development consultant from Rochester, New York, on Thursday, May 18, at a location to be named in Frankenmuth. The talk will highlight ways to be comfortable in expressing your personal "stories," skills, etc., in a professional manner. MMTG members can look for an announcement with details of the event in their inboxes soon. If you are not a member and would like to join, please contact any member of the MMTG Board.

### 2006 MMTG Board

Chair:	Rebecca Swanson	mmtg_chair@yahoo.com
Chair Elect:	Janet Allen	janet.allen@dowcorning.com
Secretary:	Deb Mendrick	DMendrick@dow.com
Treasurer:	Mary Williams	MHWilliams@dow.com
Delegates:	Sue Perz	Sue.Perz@dowcorning.com
	Deb Bailey	d.k.bailey@dowcorning.com
Directors:	Dave Stickles	dstick44@chartermi.net
	Grant Thomas	thomagg@kellyservices.com
	Dana Fuerst	dfuerst@sbcglobal.net

MMTG delegate, Sue Perz, has paired up with the Chair of the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH), Janet Smith, in planning the symposium "Analyzing the World Around Us" for the 2006 ACS Central Regional Meeting. More information on the symposium and the meeting can be found at [www.crm2006.org](http://www.crm2006.org).

It is time for nominations for the 2006 Outstanding Technician Student Award. Each year, MMTG awards one lucky student completing an Associates of Science degree in the chemical technology, environmental technology, or chemical process technology programs at Delta College with the Outstanding Technician Student Award. The 2005 recipient of the award was Chris Eicher. Chris graduated in December with his associ-

ates of science degree in chemical technology. Chris was presented with his award at the 2005 Year-End Celebration on December 14 at Genghis Khan's Mongolian BBQ.

If you know a student who is set to graduate in the 2006 calendar year from one of these programs at Delta College, please have them contact one of the MMTG board members for more information.

*Introducing three more Midland Section leaders (l-r): Debbie Rothe, chair Publicity Committee, Pat Smith, past-chair of the Section and chair Long-Range Planning Committee, and Joan Sabourin, co-chair Sci-Fest Committee.*



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## Planning for 2006 Earth Day Underway

*By Ann Birch*

The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Dig It!" and all participants will "dig" the earth/soil-based booths and activities being planned by Midland Section members. The Earth Day celebration will take place on Saturday, April 22, at the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (Midland Center for the Arts). Time of operation is still being decided—check the Midland Section website for updates.



Some of the organizations anticipated to participate include master gardeners, Michigan corn growers, Chippewa Nature Center, Dow AgroSciences, Dow Corning, Saginaw County Zoo, and many more. Plan on attending! For more information contact:

- Gretchen Kohl ([gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com](mailto:gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com))
- Angelo Cassar ([angelo.cassar@chartermi.net](mailto:angelo.cassar@chartermi.net))

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## National Chemistry Week Coming This Fall

*From National ACS*

October seems far away, but it and National Chemistry Week (NCW) will be here before we know it. Each year the American Chemical Society's NCW campaign reaches millions of people with positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to their daily lives. It is the one time during the year that chemists unite with the common goal of spreading the word that chemistry is good for our economy, our health, and our well-being. The celebration dates for 2006 are October 22–28 with the theme, "Your Home—It's All Built on Chemistry".

Planning starts long before NCW arrives, and the Midland Section coordinators are Gretchen Kohl ([gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com](mailto:gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com)), Angelo Cassar ([angelo.cassar@chartermi.net](mailto:angelo.cassar@chartermi.net)), and Marvin Tegen ([mtegen@dow.com](mailto:mtegen@dow.com)). If you're interested in helping with NCW, please contact one of the coordinators.

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## In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

*By Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Historian*

- **40 Years Ago This Month**—In “The Chairman’s Column” by M. Chamberlain: “The Dow Section” was an expression used recently by a visitor to refer to the Midland Section. His phrasing was inadvertent, but I am sure it reflected the impressions of many, if not his own. Such an impression is easy to gain when one views the substantial support that The Dow Chemical Company and Dow Corning give to the Midland Section.
- **30 Years Ago This Month**—In “A History of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society” by S.P. Klesney: The coincidence of the national ACS centennial with the bicentennial of our nation is an appropriate time to review the History of the Midland ACS Section which in 1976 completes 69 years of service and activity in the chemical profession. Chartered on December 8, 1919, the Midland Section has grown from 30 members in 1919 to 36 in 1945; the milestone of 1,000 members was passed in 1965. This growth parallels that of the national society, the largest scientific organization in the world with 110,000 members.
- **20 Years Ago This Month**—In “Where Would We Be Without Chemistry?” by Ellis K. Fields, 1985 ACS President: I recently saw a sign in the window of a health food store that stated, “Our food contains no chemicals.” How absurd to think that any food, or for that matter, any material thing does not contain chemicals. All food is made of chemical compounds just as is our clothing, the Space Shuttle, our television sets, and every one of the 50 trillion or so cells that compose our bodies. Once we realize that chemicals are everywhere and in everything, we can understand and control their uses better.
- **10 Years Ago This Month**—In “Local Section Dues: Is It Time?” by Pete Dreyfuss: The Midland Section has a long proud tradition in many ways. One of these traditions has been its resistance to pressures to assess local section dues. We have been in this fortunate position because of the equally long and continuing tradition of very generous support of Section activities by Dow Chemical and by Dow Corning. However, I believe the time has come to reconsider the matter of dues.

## Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

- April 10 Midland Section board meeting, Delta College Midland Center, 7:00 p.m., Room 8
- April 22 Earth Day, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, time to be determined (Gretchen Kohl, [gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com](mailto:gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com); Angelo Cassar, [angelo.cassar@chartermi.net](mailto:angelo.cassar@chartermi.net))
- May 1 Deadline for June issue of *The Midland Chemist*
- May 1 Deadline for WCC Overcoming Challenges Award ([wcc@acs.org](mailto:wcc@acs.org))
- May 8 Midland Section board meeting, Delta College, University Center, 7:00 p.m., D133
- May 16–20 2006 Central Regional Meeting ([www.crm2006.org](http://www.crm2006.org))
- May 17 ACS Science Education and Awards Banquet, Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (Margo McIvor, 989-496-8086)

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