

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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From the Chair

Biology of the Midland Section

How many of you are familiar with biochemistry as opposed to "industrial" chemistry? And what does the previous sentence have to do with the American Chemical Society?

The first question brings back memories of a biochemistry class needed for an advanced degree. The second question is related to the members of the Midland Section of the ACS.

Obviously, our physical bodies are composed of atoms. And every atom has unique properties. Some atoms do their work alone while others work with other atoms in the form of molecules. One of the amazing facts from biochemistry is that the extremely complex reactions occur in water, at room temperature, and at atmospheric pressure. However, many of the chemical reactions in industry occur in harsh solvents and at high or reduced pressure. And the yields of biochemical reactions that occur in our bodies is much more efficient than those of most industrial reactions, and usually the by-products are not toxic. The biochemical reactions within our bodies work together for one basic purpose: To keep us alive!

My perception of our Midland Section is that it is akin to a complex biochemical system, with individuals (atoms), some of whom work alone, and others who work in groups (molecules) in order to keep the body alive! And there are many "chemical reactions" that occur at room temperature and usually at normal pressures within this "chemical body" known as the Midland Section.

I find it interesting that the word "corporate" comes from the Latin *corporare*, which means to "make into a body" (from *corpus*, body). And that is the main point of this month's column. You are part of a body known as the ACS. Every atom, whose name may be John or Ann, may work alone like potassium, or work with other atoms like vitamin C, contributes in a positive way to growth, maintenance, and repair of the *corpus*.

As chair of our Midland Section, I would like to thank each of the



Angelo Cassar
Midland Section Chair

In This Issue

Chair Column	1
TAVP Course	1
Call for 2010 Candidates	2
Kids & Chemistry	2
Joint Technical Society Dinner	3
Call for Awards Nominations	4
Call for NCTA Nominations	4
Lane: Opportunities	5
Help Needed	5
ACS Professionals Day	6
FSM Call for Posters	6
Petition for IYC Stamp	6
In Past Issues	7
Dr. Plonka Heads MMI	7
MMTG River Cruise	8
238th Fall National Meeting	8
National Events/Features	8

Calendar for August/Sept.

Aug 10	August Board Meeting
Aug 18	Kids & Chemistry Training
Aug 20	Professionals Day
Aug 20	Discovery Day in Mt. Pleasant
Sep 14	Midland Chemist Deadline
Sep 14	TAVP Course at MMI
Sep 16	TAVP Dinner Meeting
Sep 21	September Board Meeting

"atoms" for your contribution. Working together, our "chemical yield" continues to be of the highest quality with a record number of nominations and awards from National ACS. To every atom in this *corpus*: Maintain the reactions! Let's keep the body thriving!

Steve Keinath, Director

Professor DeSimone is 2009 TAVP at MMI

The Michigan Molecular Institute 2009 Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor is Professor Joseph M. DeSimone, Chancellor's Eminent Professor of Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina. Professor DeSimone will give a series of lectures on "Advanced Applications of Fluoropolymers: From Green Chemistry to Nanomedicine," beginning September 14 through September 17. Course details are included below. See page 3 for information on the dinner meeting and presentation.

Course 1036: Advanced Applications of Fluoropolymers: From Green Chemistry to Nanomedicine

Lecturer: Professor Joseph M. DeSimone, Chancellor's Eminent Professor of Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh

Place: Lecture Hall, Michigan Molecular Institute, 1910 West St. Andrews Road, Midland, MI 48640

Time: Formal lectures: Monday-Thursday, September 14-17, 2009, 2:30-6:00 p.m.

Fee: There is no fee for auditors if

they belong to organizations that are financial sponsors of the Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program – The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Saginaw Valley State



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

University, and Mid-Michigan Section of the SPE. For all others, a course fee of \$400 will be required at registration. All participants must register.

Registration: Pre-registration is required no less than one week in advance with the Registrar by visiting www.mmi.org, e-mailing registrar@mmi.org, or by calling (989) 832-5555, ext. 571.

Course Abstract

Like many sub-fields of chemistry and chemical engineering, polymer science as a discipline is maturing, but the demands on the function of polymeric materials is as high as ever. This course will focus on several advanced applications of polymeric materials where the demand is high for these materials to possess very specialized functions and performance.

A common theme throughout all of the lectures will be the role that fluoropolymers are playing in many demanding applications. We will first discuss the environmentally friendly synthesis of fluoropolymers in supercritical carbon dioxide. The materials discussed herein will range from semicrystalline, melt-processable perfluorinated plastics, to completely amorphous, high glass transition temperature materials, to amorphous materials with extremely low glass transition temperatures. These materials will be crafted into amphiphilic block copoly-

mers, and their reversible self-assembly in compressible carbon dioxide will be discussed. In addition, the use of new varieties of curable fluoropolymers in demanding applications will be discussed, including their role in solvent-resistant microfluidic devices, fuel cells, and as high performance molding materials for imprint lithography.

In addition, we will discuss the unique wetting characteristics and curing attributes of certain classes of fluoropolymers and how these can be exploited to mold, for the first time, organic particles of controlled size, shape, and chemistry which address unmet needs in a wide host of applications ranging from nanomedicine to novel concepts in morphable robotics.

Lecture #1 – Green Chemistry: The Opportunity for Using Liquid and Supercritical CO₂ in Polymer Synthesis and Processing

Lecture #2 – Polymers for Use in Advanced Applications: Lithography and Advanced Patterning Applications, including Microfluidics, Fuel Cells and Imprint Lithography

Lecture #3 – Particles of Controlled Size, Shape, Chemistry, and Deformability to Meet Unmet Needs in Medicine and Materials Science: Part A

Lecture #4 – Particles of Controlled Size, Shape, Chemistry, and Deformability to Meet Unmet Needs in Medicine and Materials Science: Part B

Lisa Thackery

Kids & Chemistry Needs Volunteers

As Kids & Chemistry prepares for school to start again, we ask you for your help! We are currently organizing and training volunteers for upcoming educational outreach activities. These include classroom visits, one-on-one science and math mentoring, programs with groups such as Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, demos and interactive experiments at science fairs and during events such as National Chemistry Week and Earth Day.

Join us for one event or get involved in multiple programs. The time commitment is up to you. We are currently hosting a series of training sessions to help volunteers get comfortable with various lessons and to learn about what resources we can help

make available. We welcome fresh ideas and discussion and hope you will consider joining us for a meeting to see what we are all about! We would love to bring volunteers together with all levels of experience from our different affiliated employers, colleges, and universities, as well as retirees. This is a networking opportunity as well as a way to make an impact in your community. Remember, we cover five counties!

The next demo training is Aug. 18. Check out the Midland Section ACS calendar at www.midlandacs.org for details as well as upcoming event schedules. Contact Gina or Lisa (gina.malczewski@dowcorning.com; lisa.thackery@dowcorning.com) for more information.

Kevin Wier, N&E Committee

Call for 2010 Officer Candidates

Why volunteer with ACS? Read what Tina Leaym has to say: "Several years ago I was pursuing a major career change. In my interview, the questions were very difficult and required personal examples of how I had handled many different situations. Had it not been for my volunteer work with ACS, I would have struggled to come up with examples of leadership and problem-solving at this early point in my career. The ACS provided a risk-free environment for me to get my feet wet leading teams and projects."

"Volunteering to work with ACS gives me multiple opportunities to contribute; whether it's doing a cool demo to pique a child's interest in science, or working with science educators, or stuffing envelopes, I always learn something! The people are great—friendly and helpful—and we all have the same goal. ACS is one of those examples with great return on investment potential. The more you put into it, the more rewarding it becomes. And if you sit back and don't get involved, you are really missing out! You could be meeting great people, contributing to the scientific enterprise, and demonstrating your leadership skills."

Here is *your* chance to become more involved in your local ACS section. We need candidates to run for the following positions for 2010:

One-Year Terms

Chair-elect
Secretary
Treasurer
Chair, Nominations & Elections Comm.

Three-Year Terms

Directors (3 slots open)

If you are interested in running for any of these positions or know someone who might be interested, please contact Kevin Wier at 989-496-4596 or kevin.wier@dowcorning.com. If you have any questions regarding what the positions entail, contact your current officers listed on the Section web site <http://www.midlandacs.org> at About Us/Section Leadership/Board Members.

Steve Keinath, Director

Dinner Meeting Features Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor

A joint technical society dinner meeting will feature MMI's 2009 Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor, Professor Joseph M. DeSimone. Professor DeSimone is Chancellor's Eminent Professor of Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

Abstract

Technology transfer from universities has been an extremely effective means for economic development in the United States. It is a method that many around the world are trying to emulate. One only has to look at the genealogy of various industries to see that their roots are firmly embedded in university discoveries, including computers (electronic calculator at the University of Pennsylvania), telecommunications (fiber optics at MIT), biotechnology (DNA research at Stanford and UC-San Francisco), and e-commerce (supercomputers and the Internet at the University of Illinois).

In addition to the clear economic development benefits and the improvement of the health and well-being of our society and our environment, there are many other reasons why a university embarks upon technology transfer. A culture of entrepreneurship and its concomitant means for translating discoveries into the marketplace in order to make a difference to society is essential to keeping the best and brightest faculty at a given university. Faculty members who are also entrepreneurs bring a

depth of understanding and experience to the classroom that has an unparalleled effect in inspiring and educating the next generation of students and citizens for society.

The faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been extremely effective over the last decade in assisting the state and the region in economic development. Innovative new technologies and discoveries have been licensed to new and existing companies at a dramatically accelerated pace. These successes have produced many experienced entrepreneurial faculty members who have played leading roles in the commercialization of innovations discovered in their laboratories. These faculty members have balanced their academic endeavors with their entrepreneurial endeavors, and they have done this within the confines of a public university setting and often under stringent guidelines and practices. Valuable insights have been collected by this group over the last decade, and many important lessons have been learned through their active participation in the processes associated with economic development and technology transfer.

This lecture will focus on examples of technology transfer and the challenges and opportunities that such an activity presents in a public university setting.

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009

Time: Social 6:30 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.; Program 8:00 p.m.

Location: Midland Resort (formerly



the Holiday Inn), 1500 W. Wackerly Street, Midland, MI 48640, Phone: (989) 631-4220

Cost: \$25 for SPE and ACS members (or members of other professional societies such as AIChE, ASM, etc.) and guests, \$15 for students. Note: Mid-Michigan SPE will charge individuals who make reservations and do not attend the meeting.

Reservations: Reservations can be made via phone, fax, or e-mail to Dawn Wright at MMI. Reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

Phone: (989) 832-5555, ext. 571, Fax: (989) 832-5560, E-mail: wright@mmi.org.

Biographical Sketch of Professor Joseph M. DeSimone

Professor Joseph M. DeSimone received his B.S. in chemistry from Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, in 1986, and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Virginia Tech in 1990. He has published over 240 scientific articles and has over 115 issued patents and over 120 patents pending.

In 2005, Prof. DeSimone was elected into the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received 38 major awards and recognitions.

Among DeSimone's notable inventions is an environmentally friendly

manufacturing process that relies on supercritical carbon dioxide instead of water and bio-persistent surfactants for the creation of fluoropolymers or high-performance plastics, such as Teflon. In 2002, Prof. DeSimone, along with Dr. Richard Stack, a cardiologist at Duke, co-founded Bioabsorbable Vascular Solutions (BVS) to commercialize a fully bioabsorbable, drug-eluting stent. BVS was acquired by Guidant Corporation in 2003 and these stents are now being evaluated in an international clinical trial for the treatment of coronary artery disease.

Prof. DeSimone's research group is

now heavily focused on learning how to bring the precision, uniformity, and mass production techniques associated with the fabrication of nanoscale features found in the microelectronics industry to the nanomedicine field for the fabrication and delivery of therapeutic, detection, and imaging agents for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. More recently, Prof. DeSimone launched Liquidia Technologies which now employs 37 people in Research Triangle Park and has raised \$25 million in venture financing.

Bradley Fahlman, Awards Committee

Call for Nominations: 2009 Midland Section Fall Awards

The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society is soliciting nominations for its Fall awards to be presented at the 2009 Fall Scientific Meeting (October 10, Delta College). The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the following awards:

Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences

Each year the Midland Section honors an individual residing within the Section's geographical area who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and promotion of the chemical sciences. This award recognizes dedication and service to the chemical profession, but the recipient need not be an ACS member. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, list of pertinent publications, evidence of professional growth and involvement, and letters of support from colleagues.

Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society

The Section sponsors an annual award to recognize outstanding service to the

Midland Section of the ACS. This award recognizes achievement in the promotion of the goals and objectives of the Society. Nominees shall be members of the Midland Section. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, a history of service to the Midland Section, and supporting letters from fellow ACS members.

Outstanding Chemical Technician

The Section presents an annual Outstanding Chemical Technician Award to an individual who has demonstrated an extremely high degree of professionalism as a chemical technician. Nominees must have worked for five years as a chemical technician. Chemical technicians do not need to be a TECH Division Affiliate or ACS member to be eligible for this award. Nominations should include a biographical sketch and supporting letters that address each of the criteria above.

Nominations for all three awards are invited. The deadline for receipt of nominations and all supporting materi-



Dr. Jack Kruper was last year's recipient of the "Outstanding Achievement" award.

als (electronic/e-mail is preferred) is September 18, 2009. Nominations, questions or requests for more information should be directed to:

Bradley D. Fahlman
Central Michigan University
Department of Chemistry
Dow Science 357
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
(989) 774-1195
Fax: (989) 774-3883
Email: fahlm1b@cmich.edu

From National ACS

2010 National Chemical Technician Award

The ACS Division of Chemical Technicians is announcing the call for nominations for the 2010 National Chemical Technician Award.

The Award

The 2010 National Chemical Technician Award (NCTA) will be presented to a chemical technician demonstrating an extremely high degree of professionalism. The award will consist of a trip for the winner and a guest to the Spring American Chemical Society National Meeting; March 21 - 25, 2010, San Francisco, CA. Additionally, the awardee will receive a \$1000.00 honorarium and a dinner will be held in their honor in San Francisco.

Qualifications

The nominee must be currently employed as a chemical technician, and must have worked as a chemical technician for a minimum of five years. Nominees do not need to be an ACS member. The ACS defines a chemical technician as a person whose training includes successful completion of a two-year post high school level chem-

istry curriculum leading to an Associate degree, or the equivalent course work in a Baccalaureate program, or the equivalent knowledge gained by experience. The primary work of a chemical technician is conducting experimentation and/or correlating information to help solve chemical problems and/or discover new chemical knowledge, and applying specialized skills and knowledge in a scientific setting to take theory and put it into practice.

Criteria

Candidates will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Technical achievements (worth 60%)
- Other (considered together to make up the remaining 40%)
 - ♦ Leadership/mentoring (1-15%)
 - ♦ Communications/publications (1-5%) just number of
 - * External publications, presentations, patents
 - * Internal publications and presentations

- ♦ Contributions to quality, safety, and other initiatives (1-5%)
- ♦ Awards (1-5%)
- ♦ Professional and community activities (ACS, AIChE, etc.) (1-10%)

Submissions

Nomination packets must be received by Ken Burchett, contact information below, no later than September 30, 2009. Nominations, including seconding letters, must not exceed six pages. The nominating letters should address the above criteria. A complete work address, phone number, and e-mail must be provided for the nominee and the nominator.

If you need further information, contact Ken Burchett, (423) 229-8357; wburchett@eastman.com. This award is administered by the Division of Chemical Technicians of the American Chemical Society. TECH sincerely thanks Dr. Tom Lane, the 2009 American Chemical Society President, and Dow Corning Corp. for sponsorship of this award.

Tom Lane, President ACS

2009 Is Half Over But Opportunities Still Lie Ahead

Photo Credit: Peter Cultr Photography



My 2009 presidential year is rapidly coming to a close. The last six months have been occupied with travel, but it has been

truly fun, fast, productive, and enlightening. I have met and chatted with many members who have shared their concerns, dreams, and wishes at local section, regional, and international meetings. Many of them have contacted me by e-mail, U.S. mail, and through the various social networks to make their thoughts known. These thoughtful messages have been extremely helpful to me and have made a difference.

One such message was received shortly after the national meeting in Salt Lake City from a small school in the Midwest. The students had raised money to attend the meeting to give their oral and poster presentations. Unfortunately, these bright young students were scheduled late in the afternoon on the last day of the meeting and no one attended. The students and their professor were extremely disappointed. After hearing this story, I contacted the professor and offered to hear the presentations in a conference call. In turn, they invited me to the college to hear their presentations and for me to give a talk. The auditorium was packed with nearly 180 people, including the president of the college. These outstanding young chemists did an incredible job representing their discipline in front of an engaged and thankful audience.

You may recall that each local section and technical division has an individual membership recruitment target. The 2009 ACS President's Challenge asks that you help me achieve a goal of 10,000 new members; progress is slow, but we can do it. Once 5,000 new members have been added to the membership list, a reward of \$1,000 will be given to each section and division that reaches their target.

For complete details about the President's Challenge, visit <http://www.acs.org/MAC>. You can also visit

the ACS Network where you can join the President's Challenge discussion thread. This space is available for you to share tips and tools about what recruitment strategies have worked successfully for your group. Included in the discussion thread are three videos that were recorded to help local sections more effectively reach out to their communities. I hope these videos can be another resource to help you promote ACS membership through the President's Challenge, and I encourage you to share these links with potential local section and division members.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. In June, I had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with the twenty U.S. National Olympiad high school finalists in Colorado Springs. It is a time of incredible learning and stress for these extraordinary students. During this time the twenty students are pared down to six; four students with two alternates who will represent the United States during the international competition in Cambridge, England.

This year 129 of our 189 local sections participated in the U.S. Chemistry Olympiad; down from an all-time high of 145 local sections. This is an extremely important activity and one in which it is easy for sections to become involved. The participating local sections administered preliminary examinations to 11,202 high school students, which resulted in 916 students taking the national examination; twenty students made the final cut for the study camp.

Remember, the International Chemistry Olympiad will be held in the United States in 2012; now is the time to reenergize your local section around this outstanding event. For more information visit www.acs.org/education and follow the links for high school students and the Chemistry Olympiad.

Finally, at the Washington national meeting in August, the Society is launching a program to engage our members in talking comfortably, confidently, and convincingly about the positive contributions of chemistry. ACS wants you to be a spokesperson for your science—a Chemistry Ambassador—and they've got the tools, tips, and opportunities spelled out at

www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors. Chemistry Ambassadors is a new ACS program that invites members to help improve public awareness and appreciation for chemistry in the communities where they live. We know that some of you are already doing this through NCW and other activities, and I applaud you. In fact I invite you to help encourage and mentor new Chemistry Ambassadors.

We also know that many of our members are not able to be active in their local sections, but they are concerned about public appreciation for chemistry. They may feel they don't have time to become personally involved in making a difference. Chemistry Ambassadors is custom-made to fit *your* schedule and *your* interests, no matter how little time, or how much, you can afford to spend. If you're going to be at the Washington National meeting, consider attending a workshop to learn more about how you can become a Chemistry Ambassador. They're FREE—Monday, August 17, 3–5 p.m., and Tuesday, August 18, 1:30–3:30 p.m. To register for a workshop during the meeting, send an e-mail to Keith Lindblom at k_lindblom@acs.org.

Let me conclude by thanking you for all you are doing to help your Society share the value of chemistry with the public. I invite you to send me your thoughts and suggestions. Please contact me via Facebook or e-mail (tom.lane@charter.net, or president@acs.org).

Ann Birch, Webmaster

Help Needed

Midland Section Webmaster

Contact: Ann Birch, ann.birch@editech-mi.com, 989-832-7485

- What:** Maintaining Midland Section website and preparing e-mail updates and Midland Chemist e-mails. Be an assistant this year; webmaster in 2010
- Skills:** The website is fun to work with and CMS programming is easy to learn, but some experience with website management would be helpful.

Jennifer Dingman, Director

Professionals Day Returns to the Fair

Calling all members of ACS, MMTG, YCC, and TECH! Please join us for the 9th annual ACS Professionals Day at the Midland County Fairgrounds on Thursday August 20, 2009, from 4:00-7:30 p.m. The fun starts at 4:00 p.m. in the Brown Picnic Building located on the north end of the Grandstand. This year members will enjoy FREE popcorn, hot dogs, sno-cones, and beverages as well as many exciting things for the "kids" in your life; Science demos, grab bags, etc.

We will be selling unlimited VIP ride bands for a discounted price of only \$12.50 this year. The VIP ride bands allow the wearer to have unlimited ride access for 9 full hours instead of the normal ride bands, which are \$17 and good for only 4.5 hours. If you would like to pur-

chase those ride bands early and take advantage of the afternoon prior to the event, please contact Jennifer Dingman at Dow Corning (989-496-8290, j.dingman@dowcorning.com).

Mark your calendars now to join us for an exciting evening of learning, food, and fun!



ACS Professionals Day at the Midland County Fairgrounds offers hands-on science demos for kids.

National ACS

Sign Petition!

The International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC 2011) is a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind. Under the unifying theme "*Chemistry—our life, our future,*" IYC 2011 will offer a range of interactive, entertaining, and educational activities for all ages. The Year of Chemistry is intended to reach across the globe, with opportunities for public participation at the local, regional, and national level.

ACS is urging the U.S. Postal Service to adopt chemistry as a theme for a commemorative stamp in 2011, in view of the contributions of chemistry to the well-being of humankind in the U.S. and worldwide.

To support this cause by circulating and signing the petition, go to www.acs.org and click on the link to the IYC 2011 information. The petition can be downloaded from that page. There will also be a petition available at the August 10 board meeting at the Midland Center for the Arts. Midland Section members—sign up!

Susan Rhodes, 2009 FSM Committee Chair

Call for Fall Scientific Meeting Posters

Please consider presenting a poster at the Fall Scientific Meeting, which will be held October 10, 2009. Abstracts are being accepted now through September 11, 2009. All areas of chemistry, chemistry-related, and science education topics are invited. Address questions and e-mail all abstracts to David Witker, 989-496-8268, david.witker@dowcorning.com. A poster template is available at <http://midlandacs.org/uploads/images/members/fsm/FSMPosterTemplate.doc>.

Each abstract should contain title, author(s), author(s) affiliation and location, and abstract text. The format specifics include:

- Single spacing with blank line between title and author(s) and between author and abstract text.
- Times New Roman typeface in 11-point size (or comparable).
- Submitted by e-mail attachment as a Microsoft Word (or comparable) document. Please include the pre-

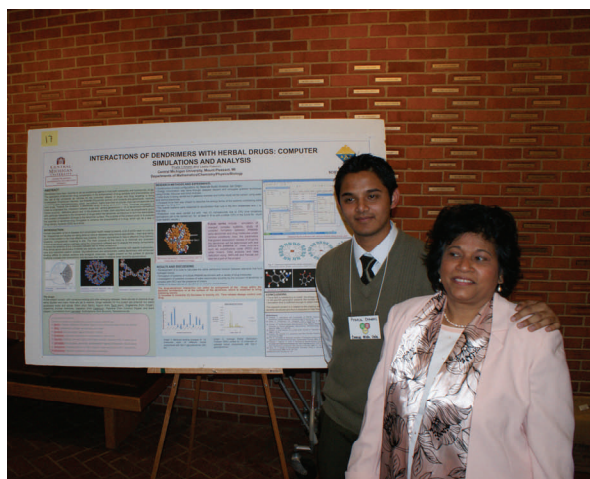
sender's last name in the file name (ex: Smith JA 2009 FSM.doc).

- 250 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.)

The Fall Scientific Meeting is the premier science and technology meeting for the Section. The meeting has been held, excepting one year, since 1945. It is organized by Section members and attended by scientists, college faculty, high school teachers, college students, and other people from a variety of organizations such as Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Alma College, Delta College, and Michigan Molecular Institute in addition to Dow Chemi-

cal and Dow Corning. More information will be available soon on the Midland Section website.

Special Note: Dow Corning is sponsoring a cash prize for the best undergraduate poster!



Wendell Dilling, Director and Historian

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

40 Years Ago This Month

In 300 and 50 Years Ago: "The chymists are a strange class of mortals impelled by an almost insane impulse to seek their pleasure among smoke and vapour, soot and flame, poisons and poverty, yet among all these evils I seem to live so sweetly, that may I die if I would change places with the Persian King..." from the writings of Johann Joachim Becher. *Acta Laboratorii Chymica Monacensis, seu Physica, Subterranea* 1669. The history of the Midland Section of ACS began 50 years ago. The initial meeting of this section took place during the afternoon of December 2, 1919, at the Educational Building of The Dow Chemical Company. Dr. W.J. Hale presided until H.H. Dow was elected the first chairman."

30 Years Ago This Month

In *Proposed Changes in Dues Status for Retired and Postdoctoral Members* by Wendell L. Dilling, Councilor: "Several bylaw amendments concerned with changes in the dues status of retired and postdoctoral members will be considered at the national council meeting in September. Members with opinions on these matters are urged to contact the

councilors. ...This proposed bylaw amendment addresses itself to two areas that would help to alleviate the cost of the emeritus program. The first part would increase the membership requirement from 35 to 40 years. The second part would require that as of 1980 new emeriti would receive C&EN after payment equal to the dues allocation for that year. All members whose emeritus status had been certified prior to 1980 would continue to receive C&EN at no cost upon annual request."

20 Years Ago This Month

In *ACS 22nd Central Regional Meeting Symposia* by Richard M. Van Effen, Publicity Chairman: "The 22nd Central Regional ACS Meeting will be held June 6-8, 1990, at Saginaw Valley State University. The meeting is being hosted by the Midland Chapter of the ACS. The regional meeting, held in conjunction with the Matrix:Midland festival, will feature 33 symposia on selected topics covering a broad range of chemical science. ...Other persons responsible for the meeting are: Patricia Dreyfuss, General Chairman, MMI; Donald R. Petersen, Vice Chairman; ..."

10 Years Ago This Month

In *From the Chair ...* by Debora Bergstrom: "We all have days when we wonder what our government leaders are doing and why. As scientists, we especially wonder how legislation is crafted around issues that involve scientific judgment. In today's society, legislation often involves scientific questions, especially in areas of environmental, regulatory, and litigation law. As our world becomes more technologically complex, government decisions that require an understanding of science will increase, not decrease. We want to see better laws which use sound scientific judgment. However, very few of our legislators have had scientific training and even fewer are scientists. The converse is also true. Very few of our scientists have had any training or experience with the legislative process, or any desire to get involved. It is no wonder that there is a disconnect here. If we expect our legislators to better understand the language of science, we must be equally committed to understanding the language of politics."

David Baker, MC Staff Writer

Plonka Takes Top Position at MMI

On June 1, Dr. James Plonka became Michigan Molecular Institute's (MMI) President and CEO, replacing Dr. Robert M. Nowak, who retired after leading the institute for 15 years. Dr. Plonka retired recently after a diverse career at The Dow Chemical Company, where he most recently served as Vice President of Venture Capital.

Michigan Molecular Institute was founded in 1971 as a nonprofit organization with a focus on polymer research and education. Over the years, research and perspectives at MMI have changed with the times, and now, Plonka is expected to extend and expand Nowak's emphasis on the growth of new businesses and partnerships. In addition to polymer research and education activities, MMI has a number of business divisions, including Dendritech, Impact Analytical, Oxazogen, and MITCON.

Dendritech is a specialty polymer company focused on the development of dendritic, hyperbranched, and tailored polymer products. It has more than 17 years of product research and development and has manufacturing capabilities to produce dendrimers in large quantities for its customers and currently sells about 40 different products. Impact Analytical conducts analytical services with outside companies. It works with more than 300 companies across the globe and employs about 25 scientists. Oxazogen is a for-profit company that collaborates in the development and manufacture of coating materials and other specialty polymers. MITCON delivers information technology services, support, and planning to nonprofit organizations in and around Midland.

MMI has about 50 employees, many of them chemists and material scientists who are engaged in grant

writing. Much of the funding comes from federal government contracts, specifically small business innovation research and small business technology transfer program opportunities. Other sources of funding include congressional appropriations, contract research, and an endowment fund. The future funding stream with the most potential growth is in startup businesses and licensing of patents, which are Dr. Plonka's areas of expertise in joint ventures, corporate spin-outs, and raising capital. Despite the current economic climate, he is looking forward to the opportunities of this new position and the challenges ahead.



Jeff Seifferly, MMTG

All Aboard!

The Mid-Michigan Technician Group invites MMTG, Midland Section, and Younger Chemists members to a cruise on the Saginaw River on August 26. You are welcome to bring your spouse or a friend, but it's "adults only" please. Your "three-hour tour" includes:

- Seated, on-board dinner service, catered by the Atrium (lower level)
- Music and dancing by Night Society Entertainment (upper level)
- Your favorite beverages available at the onboard cash bar

We board at 5:30 p.m., depart at 6:00 p.m. and return at 9:00 p.m. The boat departs from the dock at the east side of the Saginaw River, at 9th street in Bay City. Seats are limited to first 100 respondents; please respond by August 5. For ticket purchase, contact Jeff Seifferly (MMTG) (jeff.seifferly@downcorning.com, 989-496-4239).

See you on board!

National ACS

238th Fall National Meeting

Washington, DC, August 16-20

The online technical program and the technical program summary grids are available on the Fall National Meeting website at www.acs.org > Meetings. The overarching theme for the Fall Meeting is "Chemistry and Global Security: Challenges & Opportunities." The challenges and opportunities for chemistry and global security will be explored from several perspectives as part of the Presidential Plenary Symposium. Divisions have organized 113 symposia on subthemes including: Chemistry and Global Security, Education and Careers, Emerging Technologies, Energy and Sustainability, Food Safety and Environment, and Funding Opportunities. Visit the Meetings website to preview the symposia and poster sessions that the divisions are sponsoring and plan your itinerary in advance of the meeting.

While at the meeting, make plans to visit the highly anticipated Exposi-

tion from Sunday to Wednesday. The Exposition will feature more than 250 companies and 400 booths. Attendees will learn about scientific and industrial trends, discover effective technologies and services that may improve productivity, and network with chemical and industrial scientists. Visit the Exposition website at www.acs.org > Meetings to search the exhibitor directory, find information on special events, and to sign up for free educational workshops.

As always, the Fall National Meeting will feature the Career Fair and offer career assistance services, professional development workshops and short courses, along with numerous social and networking opportunities. Don't miss the benefits of attending the ACS Fall National Meeting. Make plans to attend and visit the Fall National Meeting website for details at www.acs.org/washingtondc2009.

National ACS

Upcoming National Events and Features

Two New Free Subscriptions for ACS Members

Who reads all 33,500+ articles destined for publication each year in ACS's peer-reviewed scientific journals? We do in the ACS Office of Public Affairs. Our science writers sift through 130 galleys or ASAPs every working day, searching for newsworthy topics for press releases to the news media. With a PressPac subscription, you get an insider's perspective on the process of translating chemical research into news that connects with the everyday lives of non-scientists.

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ACS members now can have a free subscription to the exclusive

publication that turns research in journals and *Chemical & Engineering News* into headlines and sound bites in newspapers, magazines, TV, radio and online sites. Until now, the *ACS News Service Weekly Press Pac* was available only to 2,000 journalists around the world.

Become a Chemistry Ambassador!

Chemistry Ambassadors is a new ACS program that invites members to help improve public awareness and appreciation for chemistry in the communities where they live.

Some of you are already doing this through NCW and other activities, we applaud you. But we also know that many of our members are not able to be active in their local sections, yet they are concerned about the public's appreciation for chemistry. If you feel you don't have time to become personally involved in making a difference, we ask you to think again. Chemistry Ambassadors is custom made to fit *your* schedule and *your* interests, no matter how little time, or how much you can afford to spend.


If someone asks what you do for

living, do you have a response that's comfortable for you and relevant for the other person? Are you willing to provide ACS scholarship information to a high school guidance counselor? How about science podcasts for younger students? Willing to send a letter to your elected official to influence science policy? Sample scripts and letters will be provided, along with audience-appropriate messages about chemistry. And if you have more time, we have more suggestions and more tools.


Going to the national meeting? Stop by one of our workshops on Monday or Tuesday afternoon to learn more about the program. To register, e-mail Keith Lindblom at k_lindblom@acs.org.

Visit "Boil This Down"

Curious to know how some chemists got to where they are in their industry career? Visit http://boilthisdown.org/?page_id=899 to read short interviews with chemists in the various industry sectors and their suggestions on how you can get there too.




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