

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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www.midlandacs.org

From the Chair

A Long List: Things to Do in 2012

Happy New Year to all— and now it's time to get (or keep) busy! We have many events/activities already planned for this year, and are starting to receive more requests for collaboration than we can handle at current volunteer levels. We appreciate all that has been done, but are looking for some new recruits.

We not only would love to have you as a volunteer, but if you already participate in specific activities, please consider taking a more active role, or trying something new...design and/or prep a demo, co-chair an event, recruit a new member at your workplace, or just "shadow" an experienced volunteer. We have a good number of the latter, who are eager to tap into the energy and fresh ideas of younger members.

If you don't have much time or don't like to do activities with crowds, maybe you can help with publicity: putting up posters, contacting media from home or by e-mail, working on *The Midland Chemist* (MC)—or maybe you would like to organize or inventory our supplies? We have needs that can be met by those of varied motivations, skills, and interests.

My own goals as chair for 2012, are as follows:

- Keeping up the Google calendar on midlandacs.org
- Website updates
- Handbook revisions
- 5% increase in membership; 10% in volunteerism
- Section business cards and brochures

Be sure to check out our web calendar for all upcoming Section events: <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=web@midlandacs.org>



Gina Malczewski

If you have items for the calendar, please contact Lisa Thackery (lisa.thackery@dowcorning.com). We will try to keep it updated with events, including training sessions, and deadlines for updates and MC issues.

Our website needs updating with new officers, committee changes, and descriptions of our activities; we will be working on this. We are also considering posting slide presentations from Board meetings, posting scripts for our demos (with password protection) and having a "contact us" button.

The last push for Handbook "Roles and Responsibilities" (not to be confused with the bylaws) revisions was made in 2009 by Dee Strand. We need to finish that effort, and will be requesting assistance from all committee chairs and officers to review relevant sections.

We will be having specific events aimed at interesting young professionals in joining ACS; the sustainability of our programs depends on new perspectives and volunteer continuity. Everyone can help communicate the value of membership to ACS, and it costs only \$2/year to join our Mid-Michigan Technician Group, which does tremendous community work and has outstanding professional development programs.

To help us connect with the public at events, and "spread the word" about who we are and what we do, I will complete work on Section "business cards" and brochures started last year.

Remember, Board meetings are open to all those interested, especially since for most we will have conference call-in capability (see page 4 for details). Pictures of Board members will be taken at the February meeting.

Stay tuned for more specifics; feel free to contact me with questions, comments or suggestions. For 2012 I will be working for the following: Join up and join in!

Gina Malczewski

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Calendar for Feb/March

Feb 6 Board Meeting at MCFTA, 7pm
Feb 9 Meet n' Munch at Dow Corning
Feb 16 Etcyl Blair Speaking Event
Feb 25 YCC Curling Event
Feb 28 Saginaw Spirit Education Day
Mar 9 Pittcon Education Week

Click on the Calendar button at
<http://www.midlandacs.org>
for more details.

Gina Malczewski, Chair

Pass it on!

There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience, and that is not learning from experience.
~Laurence J. Peter

Have you considered sharing your knowledge with someone just starting out? We will be having a networking/career fair event April 14 (more details next month) and are looking for those interested in offering to mentor.

This does not have to be a formal relationship, but just as-needed contact between people of similar interests or goals that can benefit both. At this event, we will take names of students and new industry hires, as well as retirees or long-term professionals who are interested in making connections—but we are happy to identify some volunteers ahead of time.

Please let Gina Malczewski, Gavin Lu, Sue Perz or Wayne Konze know if you are interested—consider helping out a young person as perhaps someone once helped you!

Diana Deese, Awards Chair

Call for Awards Nominations

It is that time of year again when we have the opportunity to recognize outstanding educators, volunteers and colleagues. I am asking that you take the time and nominate that outstanding person to be recognized at the American Chemical Society-Midland Section Awards Banquet which will be held on May 3 at the Great Hall and Convention Center in Midland.

This promises to be an exciting event as we have slated ACS speaker Dr. Peter Ludovice, Associate Professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. We are still determining the program title but you can read more about him at www.drpetecomedy.com. The awards banquet is a great way to connect with others in the industry, those who have gone before us, those who teach the next generation, and those who will be following in our footsteps.

The process of nominating can be fun and easy, not to mention the warm 'fuzzy' you get. Consider getting your colleagues together for lunch and putting together a packet. If you are in a managerial role and are worried about favoritism, consider nominating 2-3 qualified persons (you will remain anonymous). If you feel you deserve an award but everyone is just too busy to notice, consider leaving suggestions or have an outright discussion with your manager. If you are a parent: Does your child have a great science teacher? If so, consider nominating him/her.

From personal experience, if you know the deserving person, it only takes 30 minutes to put together an award-winning letter plus an additional 15 minutes soliciting supporting letters and following up on them. Think of what it will mean to that person and how good you will feel about your good deed.

When you realize how exciting it is to nominate someone at the local level and you want to do more, I invite you to peruse the veritable cornucopia of awards the American Chemical Society offers at the national level. See http://webapps.acs.org/findawards/detail.jsp?ContentId=CNBP_022409 for more information.

The awards committee has made a few changes this year regarding nomi-

nation submissions. Nomination packets for all awards (except outstanding high school and collegiate awards) must, at a minimum, consist of a current resume or equivalent, your letter of nomination, and one supporting nomination letter all stating why the nominee is deserving of the award with specific examples of professional involvement/growth, contributions to industry, and, outside affiliations.

It is highly recommended that the nomination include a publications and patent list where applicable, and additional letters of support which can come from students, parents, community members, and/or administrators. A nomination letter example can be requested from the awards chair (Diana) via email. Nominations not meeting the minimum requirements, and submissions received after the April 16 deadline, will not be considered.

Recipients of all awards will be selected by the Awards Committee with the exception of the Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences award which is selected by the Midland Section Board. Nominators should write a letter indicating the award and describing the attributes of the candidate.

The deadline for nominations is April 16, 2012. Mail or Fax submissions are acceptable; electronic (e-mail) submissions are preferred. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, position, address and phone number of the nominator. Contact Diana Deese with any questions: diana.deese@dowcorning.com.

For those of you sequestered in labs who feel you might not be able to attend unless you nominate someone, I say save the date and come on out for a night of food, fun, and fraternization! Watch for more detailed information on time and price right here in *The Midland Chemist*.

Call for Nominations

2012 Science Teaching, Volunteer, Education, and Chemical Sciences Awards

Each year, the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society presents awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the teaching of the chemical sciences. Nominations for the 2012 awards are invited for the following areas:

Outstanding Achievement in Elementary Level Science Teaching

Outstanding Achievement in Middle Level Science Teaching

Outstanding Achievement in High School Chemistry Teaching

Outstanding Achievement in College Chemistry Teaching

Science Education Volunteer of the Year

Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences

Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society

Outstanding Chemical Technician

Outstanding Achievement in the Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences and Engineering

Outstanding High School/College Chemistry Students

Outstanding Achievement in Teaching

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

Science Education Volunteer of the Year

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

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.

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. Nomi-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

nees shall be members of the Midland Section. Nominations should include a history of service to the Midland Section, and supporting letters from fellow ACS members.

Outstanding Achievement in the Promotion of Diversity in Chemistry, Related Sciences & Engineering

This award is presented 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. Members of the Midland Section Minority Affairs Committee are ineligible to receive this award.

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 or related field and whose primary job includes conducting experimentation or correlating information to help solve chemical problems or discover new chemical knowledge.

Nominee must have successfully completed a two-year post-high school level chemistry curriculum leading to an Associate Degree, the equivalent course in a Baccalaureate Program, or equivalent experience. Chemical technicians do not need to be an ACS member to be eligible for this award. Nominations should include outside affiliations. Request the National ACS nomination form from the awards chair to nominate in this category.

Outstanding Chemistry Students

The Awards Committee also recognizes outstanding chemistry students at the high school and collegiate levels. Those students should be selected by the respective departments and their names forwarded to the Awards Committee using the form attached to the call for nominations. (Or, contact Diana for the form.)

Award recipients as well as Chemistry Olympiad winners and Fifty/Sixty Year ACS Members will be honored at the 2012 ACS Recognition Dinner, featuring ACS speaker/comedian Dr. Peter Ludovice, on May 3, 2012 at the Great Hall in the Valley Plaza, Midland.

The Awards Committee greatly appreciates the efforts involved in nominating someone and wishes to thank you for helping to recognize deserving educators in our Section. Please pass this information along to anyone involved in our local science programs!

For example nominations or more detail on any award, please contact Diana Deese. Electronic submissions are acceptable and preferred, or via U.S. mail to:

Diana K. Deese, Chair
ACS Awards Committee
Dow Corning Corporation
2200 W. Salzburg Road
PO Box 994: Mail #AUB1007
Midland, MI 48686
Phone: (989) 496-5277; Fax: (989) 496-6360;
e-mail: diana.deese@dowcorning.com

Rusty Govitz, MMI Communications Director

Impact Analytical Adds Three, Promotes One

Impact Analytical recently announced three additions to its growing stable of testing experts. Joining the Impact team are Karen Griffin, Cristi Crofton and Jessica Chatterton. Additionally, Robin Livesay has been promoted.



Griffin, an Analytical Technologist, joins Impact following several years at The Dow Chemical Company, where she held a similar title in Michigan Operations Site Analytical Support. She earned a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Oakland University. Her work at Impact will focus on the Molecular Spectroscopy group, delivering FT-IR and NMR testing for clients.

Crofton, hired as an Analytical Technologist, has a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Saginaw Valley State University. She comes to Impact from ABC Laboratories, where she worked as an Associate Chemist in the Toxicology



area. At Impact, she works in the Liquid Separations group, performing work for clients requiring FDA-regulated testing under cGMP guidelines.



Chatterton, who holds an Associate's degree in Science from Delta College, will complete an Associate's degree in Chemical Technology from Delta this spring, and will pursue a B.S. degree from SVSU next fall. She previously worked as a student technologist/college co-op at Dow's Analytical Chemistry/TERC group. In her role as an Analytical Technologist at Impact, she works in the Liquid Separations group, providing support for customer projects utilizing the LC-MS.

Livesay, who joined Impact in 2010 as an Information Technology contractor, has been promoted to Information Technology Leader. Livesay earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administra-



tion, Management of Information Systems, from Central Michigan University. She was previously employed at Electronic Data Systems.

Impact Analytical is a contract testing laboratory established within Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI). MMI is located in Midland, Michigan, with the mission to promote the advancement of applied scientific research in the areas of chemical and polymer science. Impact Analytical works with more than 300 companies around the world and is dedicated to providing top-notch analytical service that supports the success of its customers.

Working in a variety of industries—pharmaceutical, plastics, consumer products, medical devices, packaging, automotive and specialty chemical—Impact Analytical combines unparalleled service with a full suite of capabilities. From quality control testing to identification of an unknown to support for research efforts, Impact Analytical is established in the industry as a partner that delivers reliable data and top-shelf service. For more info visit www.impactanalytical.com and www.mmi.org.

Lisa Thackery, Kids & Chemistry

Outreach Update

Below is a current list of upcoming Outreach events.

The Art and Science of Modern Cooking 2/2/12

With Chef Aaron Gaertner of Shari's FREE and open to the public Midland Center for the Arts Garden Room, 6:30–8:30 pm

Girl Scout "Mmmolecules: fun with Food Chemistry" 2/4/12

Midland Academy on Bailey Bridge Road in Midland Twp., 12–3 pm

Meet n' Munch 2/9/12

Networking and Pizza Social
For potential new ACS members and Outreach volunteers
Dow Corning, Carter Rd, 11 am–1 pm

Seuss Science–The Lorax 2/20/12

Harrison District Library
CO2 demos, 6–7 pm

Education Day with the Saginaw Spirit 2/28/12

"Our Health, Our Future"
The Dow Events Center
8–11:30 am

SPARK day at Hemmeter School (Saginaw) 3/2/12

Theme: 25 Years and Still Cooking
8 am–1 pm

Bringing 'Michigan Pure Science' to Life in the Classroom 3/8/12

Michigan Science Teacher Association meeting in Lansing
Hands-on demos for teachers to use in their classrooms

Pittcon Education Week 3/9/12–3/13/12

Orlando, FL
Teacher training and student demos
"A Passion for Polymers"

Earth Day 4/21/12

MCFTA
Recycling theme

As always, contact Lisa or Gina if you have any ideas or wish to participate.

Lisa.Thackery@dowcorning.com
Gina.Malczewski@dowcorning.com

Gina Malczewski, Chair

Board Begins New Meeting Schedule

We are now meeting (mostly) on the FIRST MONDAY of the month at MCFTA, in the Board Room, at 7 pm. Our new schedule allows us to avoid National meetings, spring break, and holidays.

The few exceptions for location will be held in the Lecture Room (right across the hall downstairs). I am introducing conference calling, so PLEASE FEEL WELCOME to participate in any meeting, whether you can come in person or not. We will try to send any slides ahead if we know who's interested. The conference calling will start with the February meeting.

Conference call phone number
(toll free): **866-299-7945**

Participant code
(you will hear a prompt): **9837036#**

Since there is no phone available in the Lecture Room, conference calling was not available for the January meeting, nor will it be available for the April meeting which is also scheduled there. However, the Lecture Room holds 90 people, so we have more than enough room for everyone who wishes to attend in person for the April meeting.

Board Meetings 2012

Date	Start	End	Room	Status
1/9/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	LECTURE RM	Confirmed
2/6/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
3/5/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
4/9/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	LECTURE RM	Confirmed
6/4/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
8/6/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
8/27/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
10/1/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
11/5/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed
12/3/2012 Mon	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	BOARD ROOM	Confirmed

All meetings will be at MCFTA.
7 pm will be the start of the standard meeting.
Conference calling arrangements will be publicized ahead of time---call-in will be to a specified TOLL FREE number.

NOTE: May 7 is tentatively at the same time in the Board room—not yet confirmed.
"Special" pre-Board meetings will take place as needed 6-7 pm in the same location.

Gina Malczewski, Chair

Publicity, Anyone?

Enjoy doing public relations? Photography? Journalism? Getting the word out about our great events is a challenge, and our current publicists (Amy Tesolin-Gee and Eva Li), need assistance. The more who help, the easier the tasks for each.

You will get the opportunity to work with local press and media, and collaborators such as the Midland Center for the Arts. For example, Amy is requesting to hear from readers of newspapers in the Mount Pleasant, Alma,

Bay City or Saginaw areas who could help serve as media contacts in those regions.

Designing wonderful activities is not time well spent, unless people know about them and come to enjoy them. We also can use assistance from those who like to write stories about events after they occur. Please contact Amy or Eva, or one of the officers.

amtesolin-gee@dow.com
eva.li@dowcorning.com

Phil Squattrito, 2013 Central Regional Meeting Chair

Midland Section to Host 2013 CRM

The 44th Central Regional ACS Meeting is being hosted by the Midland Section and will take place on the campus of Central Michigan University May 15–18, 2013.

The Midland Section last hosted the Central Regional meeting in 2006 in Frankenmuth. In recent years 600–1000 people have attended Central Regional meetings. Attendees are able to interact with a large number of other chemists from the region, which includes parts of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

The organizing committee is actively seeking volunteers who are interested in helping with the planning of the 2013 Meeting. Commit-

tees include technical program, poster session, treasurer, program book editor, awards, fundraising, undergraduate program, exposition, publicity, web master, education program, and social activities.

Volunteers are welcome in all areas, though we are particularly interested in identifying individuals who would be willing to maintain the meeting website (<http://2013cerm.sites.acs.org/>), coordinate publicity for the meeting, or assist with fundraising in the Midland chemical community.

Please contact Phil Squattrito (p.squattrito@cmich.edu <<mailto:p.squattrito@cmich.edu>> or 989-774-4407) to volunteer or for more information.

Janice Tomasik, Chemistry Olympiad Chair

Chemistry Olympiad Help Needed

I am writing to request an extra helper this year for the Chemistry Olympiad. I need someone who is reliably available this semester to help me with some tasks associated with running the Chemistry Olympiad. Here are some tasks that I would need help with:

February

Addressing and mailing envelopes (at post office) to local competition participants.

March/April

Printing certificates for all of the local competition participants, and mailing these to local teachers (at the post office).

April

Co-proctoring (with me) the National competition on April 21st at Central Michigan University.

May

Presenting awards to the local competition winners at the Local Section's awards night.

~May

Submitting reimbursement from the Local Section for costs accrued.

End of the year

Helping to write the Chemistry Olympiad annual report for the Midland Section.

None of these tasks are particularly difficult, and lots of them will be fun—especially co-proctoring the competition and meeting the talented and wonderful students who will compete at the national level!

If you are interested, please send me an email as soon as possible at tomas1jh@cmich.edu. I would be grateful for any help you could provide!

Marilyn Tourne, YCC Chair

YCC Plans Curling Event

YCC will be having its February social event at the Midland Curling Center on Saturday, February 25 from 6–9 pm. You will be able to curl for 2 hours and then relax and eat in the club lounge until 9 pm.

We can have 32 curlers and can accommodate 32 more people for the lounge. If you wish to curl, email

Marilyn Tourne (tourn1m@cmich.edu) ASAP. This is first come, first serve so if you think you might want to do it, DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

Kids are welcome to hang out in the lounge. It will be a potluck event so make sure to bring your favorite snack or appetizer to munch on. We will meet at the Midland Curling Center at 6 pm.

Letter to the Editor

Electing ACS Directors-at-Large

Additional Evidence that a New Procedure is Needed

In the 2011 ACS election for Directors-at-Large, four candidates ran for two positions (*Chem. Eng. News*, Nov. 28, 2011, p 9). Directors-at-Large are selected by councilors with each councilor having two votes. The vote tallies were as follows:

William F. Carroll, Jr.: 302, 79.7%
Barbara A. Sawrey: 177, 46.7%
Ken B. Anderson: 122, 32.2%
Charles E. Kolb: 94, 24.8%

The number of councilors voting was 379 as reported privately by the Committee on Nominations and Elections. Some voters obviously voted for only one candidate. The numbers shown following the vote tallies are the percentages of voters who voted for that candidate. According to current bylaws the two candidates (Carroll and Sawrey) who received the most votes were elected (plurality). Only Carroll was elected by a majority (>50%) of the voters. Sawrey was not favored by a majority of the voters.

A similar situation occurred in the 2009 election for Directors-at-Large where one of the candidates was elected by less than 50% of the voters (*Chem. Eng. News*, Mar. 15, 2010, p 5–6). If one believes in election by majorities then, as stated previously, ACS election procedures should be changed. A method (multiple instant run-off) was proposed to carry out elections in which two or more candidates are elected with each being elected by a majority of the voters.

Because this situation of candidates being elected with less than majority support by the voters has occurred twice in the past three years it is time for the ACS Council to amend its bylaws to prevent such occurrences. Institution of a multiple instant run-off procedure for all elections where more than one candidate is elected would make all ACS elections at the national level require majority support for election.

Wendell L. Dilling

Jeff Seifferly, 2012 MMTG Chair

MMTG Submits Year End Summary and Elects 2012 Officers

In 2011, Mid-Michigan Technician Group members played a significant role in the activities of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society. Our members participated in ACS National and local activities; served as "Career Consultants and Mentors;" served as workshop presenters and liaisons to both the Committee on Technician Affairs and the local Midland Section; and were judges for ACS National awards.

Locally, for the Midland Section of the ACS, our members served as chair-elect, past-chair, elected directors and on numerous other committees. One of our members chaired the Local Section's Awards Committee while another chaired the Sci-Fest Committee. We served as editors of the Midland Section newsletter and submitted MMTG articles for inclusion in the newsletter. We presented papers at both the spring and fall ACS National meetings.

We participated in Local Section public education and student programs. Two of our members chaired the "Kids and Chemistry" Outreach group. They, along with other MMTG members, participated in 53 different "Outreach" activities throughout the year, including "Professional's Day" at the Midland County Fair. Seven of our MMTG members were designated, and received an award, as a National ACS Science Coach, and 14 of our members received a Chemistry Ambassador sash.

In addition to the 53 science outreach activities we participated in, we held ten MMTG Executive Board meetings (average attendance was 12 members). We organized three different "Lunch and Learn" activities (average attendance was 20 members), including a vendor-sponsored "Tabletop Hands-On Swagelok Tube Fitting Safety and Installation" class.

MMTG members reviewed 14 applications and awarded a 2011 Out-

standing Chemical Technology Student Award. One member was also trained and served as a Delta College Foundation Scholarship rater.

MMTG recently held their 2012 Elections. The list of officers and delegates are as follows:

Chair	Jeff Seifferly
Chair-Elect	Jason Suhr
Secretary	Glenda Telgenhoff
Treasurer	Kelly Doede
Delegate	Amy Tesolin-Gee
Delegate	Janet Smith
Director	Jeff Anderson (1 st year)
Director	Sue Perz (1 st year)
Director	Mike Bourbina (2 nd year)
Director	Michelle Rivard (2 nd year)

If you are interested in joining or learning more about MMTG, please contact 2012 Chair Jeff Seifferly at jeff.seifferly@dowcorning.com or call 989-496-4239.

Tina Leaym, Director

YCC Brings Crowd to Spirit Game

The Saginaw Spirit Eagle's Nest suite was jammed to capacity on January 14; attendees were witness to some action-packed OHL hockey.

Our Section's Younger Chemist's Committee (YCC) and ACS student members sponsored a top-notch networking event, drawing over 75 attendees. The game culminated



The YCC and ACS Student Member groups crowded the Eagle's Nest suite at the January 14 Saginaw Spirit game. Photo provided by Tina Leaym.

in a scoreless overtime followed by a shoot-out where the London Knights finally edged out the Saginaw Spirit to achieve a one-goal victory.

Central Michigan University, Dow Chemical and Dow Corning participants were the dominating crowd members at this family-friendly night

out. The munchies were great and an excellent time was had by all.

Many thanks go to the coordinators of this event, especially Dale LeCaptain and Marilyn Tourne. Watch your email for future YCC activities, including curling on February 25!

Debbie Anderson, MCFTA

Hear Dow History

**The Journey from Need
to Discovery:**

**A History of Chemistry at Dow
February 16, 2012**

7:30 pm

**Heritage Park Carriage House
Hall**

Dr. Etcyl Blair presents a thought-provoking and insightful glimpse into the history of Dow laboratories, punctuated with humorous anecdotes, rare images, and stories of those who were driven by curiosity and guided by science, from founder Herbert H. Dow to present-day chemists.

Etcyl Blair is a retired Dow Chemical chemist who held numerous positions, including Vice President and Director of Health & Environmental Sciences. His program draws on personal acquaintances and experiences from his 35-year career.

Tickets: \$5.00 (free for Midland County Historical Society Members) at the door, or by calling the MCFTA Ticket Office: (989)631-8250.

Rusty Govitz, MMI Communications Director

Biobased Chemistry Venture Boosts MMI's R&D Program

Thanks to a pair of new projects, Michigan Molecular Institute's (MMI) foray into biobased chemistry is starting to gain traction.

MMI announced on Wednesday it has secured approximately \$130,000 in funding from a collaboration with Micromidas, Inc. to research biopolymers and renewable polymer building blocks. In addition, thanks to a \$25,000 grant, MMI is providing proof-of-concept expertise to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan's (CMPM) renewable propylene glycol derivatives research.

Dr. Patrick B. Smith, a research scientist, is leading MMI's charge in the area of biobased materials. He provided details for each project.

"Micromidas is a really interesting startup company based in West Sacramento," Smith said. "They take low-value organic waste and convert it into higher value bioplastics and chemical building blocks. Currently, they're focused on municipal waste, where they ferment that sludge and convert it into plastics that feed into significant commercial plastics streams."

"Obviously, having a renewable source like municipal waste is very valuable to the end users," he added. "They're working with us because their chemical engineers and biologists are really good at what they do, but they don't have our polymer background. They really brought us

on board to help them understand the polymer science and the rheology, to figure out what kinds of properties they need in these polymers to make them work well in commercial applications."

Smith said Micromidas is in the process of building a pilot facility to demonstrate the commercial viability of their plan, adding that MMI's work on the project, which began Sept. 1, is already showing positive early returns. He expects that MMI's research will prove valuable enough to Micromidas to continue well beyond this initial phase.

Another project occupying the MMI biobased chemistry team is the work for the CMPM.

"The research for the CMPM also involves chemical engineers at Michigan State University, with whom we're collaborating on this project," Smith said. "We're doing a feasibility study to validate the chemistry and separation process for producing a better renewable form of propylene glycol derivatives."

Historically, propylene glycol, or PG, was derived from petroleum-based sources. The work Smith is conducting with MSU aims to produce derivatives from the same beneficial PG material from corn starch; that's where the funding from the CMPM comes in.

"PG is used in many commercial products, like lotions and detergents," Smith said. "The fact that it could be renewable-sourced offers big advan-

tages to people in the consumer products market, particularly if we can do it in a cost-competitive fashion, which we believe we can."

The project is funded by the CMPM for six months, but Smith anticipates extended research will follow. Both projects underline MMI's commitment to biobased materials research, he said.

"In the area of renewable chemistry, researchers are starting to make that transition from theories and ideas to actual implementation of practical, cost-effective applications," he said. "There are many, many areas where MMI's polymer expertise can aid—and enhance—that transition. We're really just getting started."

Michigan Molecular Institute, founded in Midland, Mich. in 1971, is a non-profit organization dedicated to polymer research and education. MMI offers world-class research and development across many areas, including photonics, membranes, specialty coatings, delivery systems and sensors. Its core capabilities include polymer synthesis and design; polymer characterization; polymer science; materials science; polymer formulation and processing; heterogeneous catalysis; silicone chemistry; and biobased materials. For more information, visit www.mmi.org.

For more information, contact Dr. Patrick Smith at 989.832.5555, ext. 673 or smith@mmi.org.

Rusty Govitz, MMI Communications Director

Smith Sparks MMI Research

Patrick Smith is a busy guy these days. In addition to heading up Michigan Molecular Institute's biobased collaborations, he's been busy on the speaking circuit, and he recently edited a new book.

Smith co-edited and contributed two chapters to *Renewable and Sustainable Polymers*, a collection of symposia papers by a prestigious group of experts published recently by the ACS. He also has begun work on another book, due out in 2012.



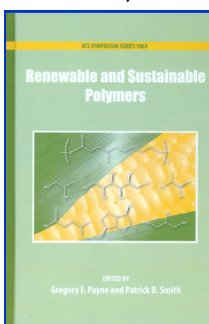
Smith retired from The Dow Chemical Company in 2007 after a career of three-plus decades there. He followed that with a stint at Archer Daniels Midland Company. He joined MMI in 2010 with an eye toward establishing a new initiative—the institute's biobased materials division.

"It's an exciting area whose potential is tremendous," Smith said. "In terms of both scientific advancement and commercial possibilities, it's a great time to

be a researcher in biobased sciences."

Smith has spoken on the topic several times recently, including a lecture as part of Michigan State University's Experts Exchange program. His lecture at the MSU Bioeconomy Institute was entitled "Emerging Trends in the Commercialization of Renewable Chemicals."

He was also an invited speaker for the recent 3rd International Conference on Biobased Polymers in Beijing, China, as well as keynote speaker for an all-day internal symposium dealing with biobased building blocks at a major specialty chemicals manufacturer in September.



Wendell Dilling, Director and Historian

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

40 Years Ago This Month

In *Professors to Come in April* by Karl L. Krumel, Chairman, 10th Annual E. C. Britton Symposium on Industrial Chemistry: "On April 27 and 28, 1972, the Midland Section is planning to present its Tenth Annual E. C. Britton Symposium on Industrial Chemistry. This year's symposium will be devoted to the subject of 'Emerging New Technology' and will feature eight speakers from Dow and Dow Corning. The goals of this meeting are to acquaint our guests, who are staff members of the chemical departments of approximately twenty-five colleges and universities in the immediate five-state area, with the people and activities of the Section and to help promote a greater level of understanding between the academic and industrial members of the chemical profession."

30 Years Ago This Month

In *Activities Planned During 14th CRM Week* by Jim Renga: "The symposia and technical sessions of the 14th Central Regional ACS Meeting, to be held June 16-18, 1982, at Northwood Institute, represent only part of the meeting's diverse activities. The Regional Meeting is scheduled to coincide with Matrix:Midland, June 13-18. A three part science series, aimed at the general public, will explore the conflicts between science and society in the past, present and future. The highlight of the evening activities will be the presentation of the 1982 Kipping Award, on Wednesday, to Professor Thomas J. Barton, Iowa State University. The plenary address 'Adventures in Research,' will then be given by Professor Herbert C. Brown, the 1979 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, from Purdue University. Musical

events at the Center for the Arts include the Guarneri Quartet, on Sunday, and 'An Evening With Gordon MacRae and Anna Marie Alberghetti' in the Dow Gardens, on Thursday. A barbeque-picnic will also be held on Thursday evening, at the Center for the Arts."

20 Years Ago This Month

In *From the Chair...* by Vicky Cobb, Chair, ACS Midland Section: "Hello, my name is Vicky Cobb. I am a chemist at Dow Corning Corporation currently working on surfactant research and development. I am also chair of the Midland Section, American Chemical Society for 1992. I'd like to take a minute to tell you why I'm so excited and optimistic about what we can achieve in the Midland Section during 1992. I've been involved with the Midland Section for 5 years now, and can tell you without hesitation, that the number of interested and talented people at work in our Section has been growing each year. We've always been blessed with a hard working core of people, but right now this 'core' has grown to the size of a small army. I believe one of the main reasons for this increasing interest is the new focus of our Section. When the Midland Section first began, the primary role was to provide a forum for exchange of technical ideas. However, over the last decade many other avenues have become available for technical exchange, and this need within the Midland Section has diminished. What has evolved in its place is far more expansive. We now are charged with not only continuing to provide technical and professional growth to our area scientists, but also to reach out to our community in very direct ways. I would propose to you that the current role of the Midland

Section, ACS is to be a leader and partner in science education. This includes not only the education of science professionals, but of our area teachers and our community. We are now charged with the need to teach, educate, and promote the public awareness of chemistry. I think it is this new responsibility that has brought about such a drastic increase in participation in the Midland Section. We have developed some unique and successful programs in recent years directed toward meeting this need. Last year, the Midland Section sponsored a booth at the Midland County Fair. This one activity touched more people in our area than many earlier events combined. The booth was a huge success!!"

10 Years Ago This Month

In *Former Dow Corning Executive Addresses Section Leadership* by Ann Birch: "At a dinner meeting on December 7, 2001, retired Dow Corning executive Jim Falender addressed Midland Section leaders on the relationship between the local ACS and local corporations. He offered the presentation as a catalyst for discussion of future directions. He first gave his observations on what the Midland Section has done very well in the past, including: (1) Promoting the importance of chemistry as a career and as a skill for everyone, (2) Integrating industrial, academic, government, and nonprofit organizations, (3) Encouraging special initiatives to improve society, (4) Developing and using professional skills, (5) Providing professional outlets that complement employment, (6) Sharing best practices, (7) Fun!"

Jeff Seifferly, MMTG Chair

Mid-Michigan Technician Group "Adopts A Family"

Mid-Michigan Technician Group again participated in the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program for the 2011 holiday season. To increase donations, all area technicians were brought onboard for this worthwhile and well received program.

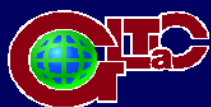
Our family this year was a single mother with four boys, ages 3, 9, 12, and 15. MMTG members were able to

leverage our relationships with local business to obtain significant discounts on purchased items for the family. The family received clothing for every child, a Leapster pad and games, Lego sets, a car toddler bed, a grocery card and general gift cards.

During delivery, the mother seemed very appreciative and grateful for our help. She kept hugging our members

saying "thank you" and "bless you" with tears in her eyes. Her fiancé was in a bad car accident in early December and sustained some memory loss from the accident, so things have been a little stressed for her.

Our members collected over \$500 in cash and donated items for this Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family effort.



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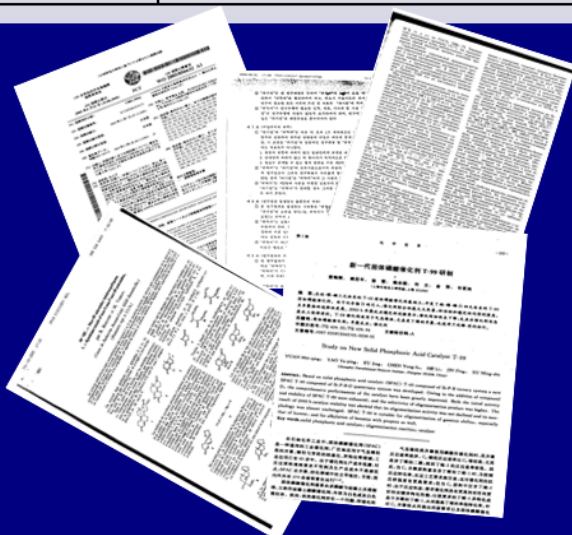
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American Chemical Society
Midland Section
P.O. Box 2695
Midland, MI 48641-2695
<http://www.midlandacs.org>

Volunteer Staff

Amy Tesolin-Gee Editor
newseditor@midlandacs.org
Dave Baker.....Writer
Peggy Hill.....Writer
Please submit all articles and photographs to the editor. An editorial calen-

dar and instructions for article submission are on the Midland Section website on the Communications|Newsletter menu.

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