

The Kalchemist News

December 2006—January 2007



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Message from the Chair

Michael L. Kiella

Science Café Mini-Grant Awarded to Kalamazoo Section

This fall, the ACS Office of Local Section Activities solicited applications from the Sections to help support a new program called *Science Café*. The program offers an opportunity for our Section to sponsor a discussion forum for current topics of scientific interest. The program is structured so that scientists, and non-scientist alike, are given the opportunity to learn by asking questions of a science expert...technical topics in layman language. Informal and informative. The Café is a nice compliment to our Tour Speaker program. The mini-grant will fund speaker travel; advertising and promotion; or help offset other costs associated with the hosting the Science Café. The Executive Committee will form a program committee to begin planning for our Section's event. Please let us know if there is a national or regional topic that you believe will make a good Café.

News Editor

At the time of this writing, the volunteer who would like to assist the Section by becoming the Editor of the KALCHEMIST NEWS has not stepped forward. If you are interested, but wish to know more about the role before you commit, please contact Benjamin Maxey, Monica Whitmire, or me. Our contact information is on the masthead.

Transition to FY2007

John Miller convened the Budget Committee several times during the fourth quarter of 2006 to evaluate income, expenditures, and Section programs. His committee has brought forward a proposal for the FY 2007 budget. The proposed budget was presented to the Executive Committee for approval at the December 6th EC meeting and was unanimously approved.

In review, the FY2006 budget held up. The Section brought all of the planned programs forward at budget. Thank you to the program chairs and committees that made this possible. Well done.

Looking forward, the FY2007 budget will reflect the reduction in Section membership that we anticipated over the last two years. John's committee was able to bring next year's budget forward with adjustments that, for 2007, should be transparent to the membership. Thank you, John.

And finally...

I am grateful for the opportunity to Chair the Section during the past year, a year made easier with guidance from the Executive Committee; and splendid participation by program chairs and volunteers. It was truly a capstone to eight years on your Executive Committee. Thank you.

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Section Elects New Members to the Executive Committee

Dr. James Kiddle is elected to the position of Chair Elect for 2007. He will become the Section Chair in 2008. Dr. Kiddle is a professor of Synthetic Organic, Medicinal and Green chemistry at Western Michigan University.

Dr. John Miller is elected to the position of Treasurer for 2007-2008. John completes his appointment as Section Treasurer completing the term vacated by Shawn Hawk with his untimely death last spring. Dr. Miller is a professor of Surface, Photo, and Biofuel Production Chemistry at Western Michigan University.

Sheryl Loux returns to the position of Alternate Councilor for 2007—2009. Sheryl is incumbent to this position and has been active in the Section for many years.

Congratulations and Welcome to our new EC members!

Social Chair Initiates Professional Networking Program

On the drawing board

Jennifer Larese is excited to announce a great opportunity to become part of a planned networking program where we can become a “Professional Contact” to our WMU, Kalamazoo College, and KVCC students. The network, now in the planning stages, is designed to assist students as they explore career fields and career options within chemistry. As a network member, we envision members in the network being contacted in an advice-giving capacity. We certainly do not intend that the program promote employment or internship purposes, provide home work help, or be used for classroom related instruction. More information on the program will follow in the next newsletter.

Executive Committee Meeting Time

The Section Executive Committee announced that it will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at TGI Friday on West Main and US-131 at 6:00p.m. A private room is reserved for the meeting.

Women Chemists' Committee End of Year Report for 2006

The Women's Chemist Committee sponsored its fifth Girl Scout Chemistry Labs during the past year. In conjunction with Mr. Mark Cronkhite, Program Director for the Kalamazoo Area Glowing Embers Council of Girl Scouts, a Girl Scout chemistry merit badge day was planned and executed. The Girl Scout chemistry merit badge day was designed primarily for girls in grades 4-6. The primary goal of the badge was to highlight the importance of chemistry in a variety of scientific careers. Each experiment that the girls undertook was preceded with a brief description of how the principles of chemistry demonstrated in the experiment are used by a professional in the field. This experience was designed to give the girls (and troop leaders) who participate the chance to think about chemistry in terms of potential careers. For this Girl Scout chemistry day, we chose to highlight experiments that a biochemist, environmental chemist, food chemist, pharmaceutical chemist and polymer chemist might carry out in their working environment. The experiments (each one coordinated by a member of the WCC) and text the troops were given is attached.

The Girl Scout Chemistry Merit Badge Day was held March 25 starting at 9:00 am in McCracken Hall on the campus of Western Michigan University. Parking was available in the lot just in front of the building. Sixty five girls participated in this event. We split the girls up into 5 groups and rotated them through the five experiments. Each group completed three experiments in the morning, took a break for a brown bag lunch, and then the final two experiments were completed in the afternoon. The day wrapped up around 2:30 pm at which time the troop leaders and girls filled out evaluation forms.

Successes of the day were numerous. First, 35 professionals (students, faculty, staff and industrial scientists) from the local area volunteered to help make the day a success. They helped to serve as facilitators and mentors in each of the experiments the girls completed.

The experiments themselves went smoothly and timing was perfect. The evaluations at the end indicated that all were thankful for the opportunity to participate in such a well organized and educational activity. The girls and troop leaders not only had fun, but learned many new aspects about women in science.

Western Michigan University Affiliates Plan Program in February

Join the WMU Chemistry Club and our special guest, Mike Babb, on Thursday, February 1st as we explore the Chemistry of Beer! Mike received his brewing license in Germany and worked as the head brewer at Coor's for 20 years. After the presentation enjoy beer tasting with us and one of Kalamazoo's experts! Location to be announced. (of course, you must be 21 or older to participate in the beer tasting activity).

For Location Information please contact: Loren LaPointe (loren.m.lapointe@wmich.edu) 269-492-2714 and Jennifer Ward (jen.ward@wmich.edu) 269-873-2843.

PBS/NOVA Features Dr. Percy Julian in February 2007 Documentary

A Documentary on the life and work of Percy L. Julian, a black chemist, which will be debuted and featured on PBS/NOVA in February 2007 entitled "Forgotten Genius". The program is supported in part by the American Chemical Society. Dr. Julian is best known for his work with soybean oils and steroid derivatives;

Some of the long-time among our membership may be interested to see footage of early Upjohn fermentation facilities shown in the film.

The date and time have not yet been released, but they should be found in TV guides in February. Following is an excerpt from the following link:

http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/138/Science_pioneer_Dr_Percy_L_Julian

Dr. Percy L. Julian

Dr. Percy Lavon Julian was born in 1899. This African American research chemist was a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of drugs used in medicine.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, the grandson of a former slave, Julian had limited schooling because Montgomery provided no public education for Blacks after the eighth grade. He entered DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, as a 'sub-freshman' and, though ill-prepared, graduated in 1920 as class valedictorian with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He received a M.S. degree from Harvard three years later and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Vienna in 1931.

Dr. Julian taught chemistry at several universities and conducted research for private industries for many years before founding his own research firm, Julian Laboratories, Inc., in 1953. His first major scientific contribution, in 1935, was the synthesis of physostigmine, the drug used in the treatment of glaucoma.

He also worked on biomedical projects, developing steroids from the soybean and synthesizing progesterone (female hormone), testosterone (male hormone), and cortisone. His work made possible the production of these drugs in large quantities, reducing the cost of treating hormonal deficiencies, arthritis, and other disorders.

Later in his career, Julian developed a soybean protein to be used as a coating for paper and as an ingredient in fire-extinguisher foam. In 1947 the NAACP awarded him its highest honor, the Spingarn medal. Dr. Julian was also elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 1964, he founded Julian Associates and Julian Research Institute, which he managed for the rest of his life.

Reference:

African Americans/Voices of Triumph
by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.
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Fall Tour Speaker - Dr. John Fortman Revisits Kalamazoo

John Fortman paid his third visit to the Kalamazoo Section on October 9th at the Kalamazoo College Dow Center and presented the program *The Science of Magic* to a standing room only audience. The presentation demonstrated how the magical arts depend on physical and chemical principles for their basis. Many past Section and Committee chairs were present for the talk. Dr. Fortman and his wife were treated to a hospitality hour following his presentation which was attended by his college classmate, Steve Mizesak; and our Section's 58-year member Dr. Wally Hines. Monica Whitmire and Dr. Joan Esson coordinated the event.

Pfizer Chemist Barbara Lee Appointed to Fill EC Vacancy

Ms. Barbara L. Lee was appointed by the Executive Committee at the December 6th meeting to fill the Executive Committee Secretary position recently vacated by Amy StCharles.

Lee has been involved for several years with Section activities, most recently at the National Chemistry Week Museum Day. She is an Analytical Chemist at Pfizer. Her appointment will continue through 2007. Her contact information is found on the masthead. Please welcome Barbara to her new role with the Section.

Amy StCharles departs this month to accept a new role in Pfizer at the St. Louis, Missouri plant. Monica Whitmire, incoming Section Chair, presented Amy with a pen and pencil set at the December meeting as a memento of her time with the Section EC.

Welcome Barbara and Thank You and Best Wishes to Amy!



A View from Museum Day....

Dr. Elke Schoffers separates the organic and aqueous layers in a Biofuel demonstration.

Chemistry Day at the Museum

Twenty years and counting

The KACS co-hosted another successful Chemistry Day in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum – our 20th annual event, to be exact! We had 15 different experiments, 100+ volunteers, 1700+ participants – even a visit from the astronaut Rick Heib! The day also featured an Alternative Fuels rally and a biodiesel experiment for the children to try out. We'd also like to thank Joe Thorstenson and all the students who made cupcakes for the periodic table, the students who coordinated with Brad Portis from Gull Lake High School, and the WMU Students who made "Slime" such a success.

This year's program was coordinated by Amy StCharles and Jennifer Larese with mentoring by Lydia Hines. Thank you again – to all the volunteers for your time and effort!

This year's Volunteers (and we hope we haven't missed anyone!)

Lydia Hines	Michael Barcelona	Sarah Jennings
Charissa Oliphant	Loren LaPointe	Barbara Klepper
Evan Walbridge	Don Schreiber	Devin McKay Holder
Evan Woods	Andy Sanborn Whiteman	Marty Mosley
Michael Hall	Kate Shaw	Kyle Kuzmick
Elke Schoffers	Jenny Ward	Stacey Meegan
Shannon Grossman	Steve Schley	Natrin Mattox
Katie Erbach	John Miller	Olajumoke Ogunleye
Amy St. Charles	Jason Koenig	Elena Stachew
Erin McIntyre	Andy Theilking	Lizzie Welch
Theresa Burks	Chris Reece	Anthony Rinehart
Burke Snyder	Gabby O'Brien	Janice Tindle
Dawn Newnum	Stephanie Waite	Lee Wicrenga
Tracy Mays	Adam Simon	Naidra Walls
Howard Johnson	Ashley Fleck	Kevin Zhang
Carl Stachew	Tyler Ankney	Sander Mutsaers
Katie Cimbalik	Irene Ripley	Dominique Young
Chris Glass	Skyler Willis	Aaron Mason
Jay Patterson	Laura Holt	Stephen Zavitz
Barb Horvath	David Gipe	Wally Hines
Dave Stagray	Andrew Gabriel	Annette Hoppenworth
Amit Sathyan	Rashud Thomas	Joe Thorstenson
Michelle Polishak	Lauren Denham Hubbard	KAMSC Cupcake Bakers
Connie Brennan	Nathaniel Bowwer	Sheryl Loux
Michael Dunn	Sean Ryan	Monica Whitmire
Paul Dunn	Chris Bellomy	
Wendy Russell	Amanda Mulholland	
Carol Manthey	Alyssa Al-Hakim	
Brandon Pinto	Rush Sharma	
Barbara Lee	Tim Clore	
Olivier Roux	Jack Stankewicz	
Jennifer Larese	Wajira Ariyadasa	
Theresa Dunham	Jennifer Bussing	

Images from Chemistry Day at the Museum....



Sheryl Loux conducts a demonstration in "Kitchen Chemistry"

Carl Stachew poses with an imploded steel drum following his demonstration of "Crushing Power"



Dawn Newnum and Burke Snyder separate the colors in their demonstration of "Paper Chromatography"



Section Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

- January 3** **KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Open to all Members, 6:00pm (Monica Whitmire 375-0060)**
- February 1** **The Chemistry of Beer, WMU Student Affiliates, Location TBD; Please Contact Loren LaPointe 492-2714 or Jennifer Ward 873-2843**
- February TBD** **PBS Nova Presentation on Dr. Percy Julian**
- February 7** **KACS Executive Committee Meeting, Open to all Members, 6:00pm (Monica Whitmire 375-0060)**

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Please contact Benjamin Maxey at benjamin.s.maxey@pfizer.com if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.

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