

KALCHEMIST NEWS

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April - May, 2006



Message from the Chair

Michael Kiella

Recognition

Congratulations are in order for four of our members who have reached a significant milestone in the Section. Drs. Louis Skaletsky, David Martin, Dean Cooke, and Mr. Howard Whaley have become 50 year members of the American Chemical Society. I am pleased that in our current culture, where immediate gratification seems so prevalent, we have the opportunity to recognize and acknowledge long term commitment and participation. We appreciate their contribution to our Society, and on behalf of the Section, I extend sincere congratulations.

EC Treasurer Sought

We were recently informed that our Executive Committee Treasurer, Mr. Shawn Hawk, has transferred his work responsibilities to the Pfizer - Ann Arbor campus. While he has worked tirelessly during this move to advise the EC and recommend the FY2006 budget; he asked that a search be initiated for a volunteer to replace him. The EC is actively seeking a volunteer to become the Section Treasurer. Please consider this opportunity. The time commitment would include the EC meetings for the remainder of the year, and perhaps an hour each month to keep the records. If you are interested, please contact any member of the EC. Thank you in advance for your help.

Activities Galore

Please look at the schedule of events included in this issue. We are very excited that the next couple of months will be a very busy time for the Section. Many volunteers have stepped forward to bring or support activities in our community. Please help support the Section either with your attendance or volunteer....more inside!

More to come... Mike

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KACS WEBSITE:

<http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>

Update from the Social Coordinator

Jennifer Larese (833-0637, Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com)

As the Social Coordinator for the Kalamazoo Section, I am hoping to plan events to bring together current members and also encourage new members to get involved. If you have any suggestions, please email me: Nildran@gmail.com or Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com.

Next Events:

April 27, 2006 Post Tour Speaker Gathering

Jim Benko will be at WMU to talk about the chemistry of physics and snow. After the talk, we will head over to The Roadhouse for food and drinks with Jim. Feel free to join us as we welcome Jim to Kalamazoo and say "thank you" for his presentation. Contact Jennifer Larese (Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com or 833-0637) for more information.

April 29, 2006 Borgess Run 5K

Join us to run the Borgess Run 5K on Saturday morning, April 29, 2006 at 7:45 am. The run starts and ends at Borgess Health & Fitness Center located at 3025 Gull Road in Kalamazoo. If you are interested in running or want more information, contact Jennifer Larese (Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com or 833-0637) or check the website at www.borgessrun.com. Each participant will need to register (\$20 registration fee) and submit the registration form.

May 6, 2006 WalkAmerica with the March of Dimes

The March of Dimes "WalkAmerica" will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2006 in downtown Kalamazoo. I will be collecting donations and walking again this year, if anyone else is interested in walking. If you are interested in walking or want more information, contact Jennifer Larese (Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com or 833-0637) or check the website at www.walkamerica.org. If you are a Pfizer colleague, Pfizer will match donations of \$25 or more. The walk will start at about 8 am and depending on walking speed, we can usually finish the walk by noon (about 6 miles total).

TBD KACS Picnic

The EC is considering sponsoring a local section picnic. If you would be interested in attending an event like this, or would like to help coordinate this event, please contact Jennifer Larese (Jennifer.A.Larese@pfizer.com, 833-0637).

Stand for Children - Party in the Park

Lydia Hines

The 9th Annual "Party in Park" in honor of Stand for Children Day will take place on Wednesday, May 31, from 10-11am in Bronson Park. Volunteer readers are needed to help with this wonderful event.

Child care groups, preschools and families enjoy sitting in the beautiful park while readers circulate and entertain the children (and adults) with great stories. Children will hear stories read by community leaders, like you.

If you are interested in helping with this wonderful event, put on your lab coat or a Chemistry-related T-shirt and join the excitement. Please contact Lydia Hines for more information or to volunteer by May 5, 2006 (lemh@medscape.com, 375-7349). Those who participated last year thought it was great fun, and the children really enjoy it!



The Physics and Chemistry of Snow

Presented by Jim Benko



Location: Western Michigan University, 1903 West Michigan Ave, 1728 Wood Hall

Date: Thursday, 27 April 2006

Time: The Seminar Starts at 6 PM

For Jim Benko microscopy is both a vocation and avocation. Living near Lake Michigan in Zeeland, Michigan, he had had the opportunity to study snowflakes under the microscope for over 30 years. During that time he has preserved thousands of flakes using replication techniques developed by V.J. Schaeffer and has photographed thousands more. Using small particle manipulation methods developed for particle isolation, he has perfected specialized techniques to physically paint snowflake replicas, and to transport and preserved them in small vials.

The snowflake is perhaps the most beautiful and yet most fleeting object in nature. It is here for only an instant and gone or changed forever in a few minutes. Most of us have an idea of what a real snowflake looks like, but will be surprised to discover that the six-pointed star shaped flake most often seen depicted on Christmas decorations and other art forms is only one out of about 21 different shapes that can form under appropriate conditions.

Biographical Sketch

Jim Benko has been involved with analytical chemistry for over forty years. He holds a BS degree from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He has worked in the coatings industry, food industry, and water/paper/printing industries using microscopy and analytical chemistry to solve industrial problems. After working for BASF for over 20 years, Jim became a chemist consultant when BASF closed its facilities in Holland, MI. Jim now works for MicroLab as an analytical chemist specializing in small particle analysis and contamination problems.

Those who like art and nature should also enjoy this talk.

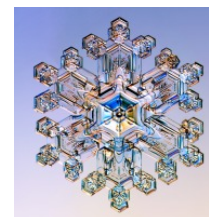
There is no charge to attend. Admission is free.

For more information, please visit these web sites:

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artfeb00/jbsnow.html>

<http://www.wowcom.net/christmas98/day4/index.html>

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/photos/photos.htm>



Call for Volunteers!



Science Is Fun!

On April 20, KACS will be cosponsoring an Earth Day "*Dig It!*" event at the Lawton Elementary School as part of the ACS Innovation Grant 5th Grade Science Fair Project. There will be eighty-eight children, representing four 5th grade classes. The primary teacher contact for this project is Carolyn Brayman. There will be a 15-minute video presentation on soil testing, and then all of the children will perform a hands-on experiment to test a soil sample (pH, nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus). The experiments will then be summarized and compiled into a Scientific Poster format as an example prior to them working on their own poster projects.

If you are interested in assisting with this Earth Day event, please contact Carolyn Brayman (cbrayman@lawtoncs.org) or Monica Whitmire (howdy_mlw@sbcglobal.net, 375-0060).

This event is co-sponsored by the Kalamazoo American Chemical Society (KACS), Pfizer Education Initiative (PEI) and Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Instructional Center (K/RESA).

KALAMAZOO SECTION ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Kalamazoo Section of the ACS will hold its Thirty Third Annual Awards Banquet on Monday, May 22, 2005, in the Bernhard Center on the Western Michigan University Campus from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The awards banquet is held annually to honor outstanding high school senior chemistry students and high school teachers.

At the dinner, the Outstanding High School Chemistry seniors from the 35 high schools in the area served by the Kalamazoo section will be honored. The section will also present checks and certificates to the winners in the Kalamazoo Section's Competitive Examination program. Outstanding College Chemistry Seniors from Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University will also be acknowledged.

An award will be given to the Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher for 2006 for the Kalamazoo Section. This year we will be accepting nominations for the award from the KACS membership, so if you want to nominate your child's High School Chemistry Teacher, please contact, Dr. Brian Buffin at 269-387-2420 or by email at brian.buffin@wmich.edu

Also to be honored at the banquet will be Kalamazoo Section members who are Fifty Year ACS members and a special Kalamazoo Section Achievement award will be presented.

The cost of the dinner, including gratuity, is \$17.00. Any Kalamazoo Section member or guest who wishes to attend the Awards Banquet should return the following by May 12, 2006 or call at 387-2846 to make a reservation.

PLEASE RETURN by May 12, 2006 to:

Ms. Annie Dobbs
Chemistry Department
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Please make the following reservation for the Annual Awards Banquet of the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society at \$17.00 for each plate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Places</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Cost			_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "The American Chemical Society"



2006 KACS Calendar

Contact the person in parentheses to answer questions or to volunteer

April 20	Earth Day "Dig It," Lawton Elementary School, Monica Whitmire (375-0060)
April 27	Spring Tour Speaker: "The Chemistry and Physics of Snow," by Jim Benko, 6:00pm, 1728 Wood Hall, WMU, Monica Whitmire (375-0060)
April 29	Borgess 5K Run, 7:45am, Borgess Health & Fitness Center (Jennifer Larese, 833-0637)
May 4	KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00pm (Mike Kiella, 833-9863)
May 6	WalkAmerica with the March of Dimes, downtown Kalamazoo (Jennifer Larese, 833-0637)
May 22	KACS Annual Awards Banquet, 6:00pm, WMU (Don Schreiber, 387-2856)
May 31	Stand for Children – Party in the Park, 10:00am, Bronson Park (Lydia Hines, 375-7349)
June 1	KACS Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00pm (Mike Kiella, 833-9863)

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

KACS Website Address: <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>