

Newsletter for the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society



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2019 KACS Executive Officers

Chairperson

Dr. Lucas Chadwick

lchadwick@bellsbeer.com

Past-Chairperson

Steve Secreast

pastchair@kalamazooacs.org

Chairperson-Elect

Dr. Hershel Jude

hjude@kalsec.com

Secretary

Dr. Kelly Teske

kelly.teske@wmich.edu

Treasurer

Dr. William Schinzer

bschinzer@arrowps.net

Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines

lemhwgh@gmail.com

Alternate Councilor

Dr. Doug Williams, Kalsec, Inc.

dwilliams@kalsec.com

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Section Recognition

At the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Meeting Awards Dinner our KACS section received our second P3 (Partners for Progress and Prosperity) Award! This time for the Speed-Networking Event which Past-chair Stephen Secreast initiated. In Stephen's first year as section chair in 2017, he established a collaboration between KACS, the Kalamazoo College Chemistry Department and the Kalamazoo College office of Career and Professional Development. The award consists of a plaque for each of the three program collaborators, as well as a Medal and a \$333 award for each; representing the 2 Kalamazoo College Departments and the KACS were Dr. Jeff Bartz and Dr. Lydia Hines, respectively.



From left to right: Susan Shih (Awards Committee Chair, 2019 Great Lakes regional Meeting), Dr. Jeff Bartz (Chemistry Department, Kalamazoo College), Dr. Lydia Hines (Councilor, KACS Section).

KACS Refreshment Station

Section members participated at a half-way “refreshment station” on Oakland Drive for Marathoners on Sunday, May 5, 2019.



46th Annual Awards Gathering KACS Celebration 2019

May 5, 2019 was a pleasant day in Kalamazoo in many ways, one of which was the annual gathering of KACS members along with students and parents/friends in the chemistry building at Western Michigan University (WMU) for the presentation of awards to long-time ACS members, deserving students and teachers as well as to other KACS members in our local section area (Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren counties). It was an amiable group of approximately 80 gathered for the hors d'oeuvres in the lobby graced by a large Periodic table whose internationally-recognized 150th anniversary is this year. Awards were presented immediately after this light supper to one graduating senior from WMU and one from Kalamazoo College, each nominated as outstanding by the respective school's chemistry department faculty, and to Mr. Jon Taylor, chemistry teacher from Portage Central High School who, according to his students, is "the best teacher they have had in their lives". To receive his 50-year membership certificate from the American Chemical Society was Dr. Wade Adams, and to receive the Volunteer service award from the ACS Committee on Community Activities was Dr. Thomas A. Runge who spear-headed the writing of the successful application for the National Historical Chemical Landmark presented in 2019 to our community in recognition of the 1950-1990 Kalamazoo Steroid Chemistry Work done at The Upjohn Company. Following those recognitions came the presentation of certificates and prizes to 6 outstanding chemistry students nominated by their HS teachers, as well as to 20 students with exemplary scores on a 2-tiered examination given by our section's Education Committee. All present seemed to be very appreciative of the examination program and the recognition it offers; it was conceived and implemented by Dr. Adams, our 50-year member, when he was chair of our Section in 1982! The following pictures of the three groups of students show the pleasure experienced by all those present...



Honorable mention awardees from the competitive exam



Top 8 awardees from the competitive exam



Outstanding Chemistry Students as nominated by their high school teachers

Harry Potter Chemistry Assemblies at Haverhill and Amberly Elementary Schools

Western Michigan University Ph.D student Kristi Tullis (CGSA President) and M.S. student Jashaun Bottoms (CGSA secretary) brought chemistry to life by making potions and casting spells while students pondered whether magic or chemistry was happening! floo powder, troll boogies, polyjuice potion, truth serum, and the Weasley's fireworks show were all created. The students were all involved helping cast spells such as Incendio! Wingardium Leviosa!, Accio!, Reducto!, and Lumus! 12 engaging experiments were done over three assemblies and a whole lot of science was discussed about why things happened and how it worked. Thanks to many staff volunteers helping get the "dragon's egg" out of the bottle and for holding fire in their hands.





National Chemistry Week: Join us for this Community Favorite!

Our annual **Chemistry Day at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum** is going to take place from 12:00–16:00 on **Saturday, October 12, 2019**.

This year's theme is *Marvelous Metals*.

Anyone interested in sharing a hands-on chemistry activity with the ~1000 children and adults who visit during that event, please contact [Lydia Hines](#) or [Hershel Jude](#).



Questions? Comments? or would like to contribute to this newsletter?



Send an email to Mike Weslosky, Communication Chair at
communications@kalamazooacs.org

Visit our website www.kalamazooacs.org

or

