

American Chemical Society – Kalamazoo Local Section Newsletter

November 5, 2012

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Comments from the Chair

Elke Schoffers

Dear Colleagues,

KACS hosted two more events since the September newsletter was published. A big THANK YOU goes to the **59 volunteers** who oversaw **23 activities** during **Chemistry Day** at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, which was organized by Lydia Hines and Annette Hoppenworth.

On Mole Day, we welcomed Thomas Werner as ACS Tour Speaker who presented a fine lecture on doping in sports. Over 50 attendees learned about amphetamines, anabolic steroids, human-growth hormones and blood doping as part of a drug detection cat-and-mouse game and its societal implications.

KACS initiated a new program titled “**Chemistry and Culture**”. “**Elements of Dance**” is hoped to be the first in a series that targets a broader audience by highlighting the connections between chemistry and culture. Therefore, in **November**, local chemists will trade in their laboratory gear for elegant ballroom attire at the KIA. Chemists, dancers and the general public are invited to this free event to witness a “fun reaction”. Dancing is not required but I sure hope that you will try. Find details online at <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>. In **December**, local scientists are invited to present a newly prepared or recycled poster at Bell’s. A presentation by John Mallett about brewing will be followed by mingling amongst posters. This will be an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends. Hope to see you soon! Meanwhile, stay connected with KACS [online](#) and via [Facebook](#).



Elke Schoffers, Ph.D.
Professor (WMU)
Chair - Kalamazoo
Section (ACS), found
her dance shoes for
the Nov. 9 KIA event

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

Do you have questions, comments, or would like to contribute to this newsletter? Send an email to: ACSkzoo@gmail.com

Upcoming events at a glance (Nov - Dec 2012)

Friday, November 9, 2012

6:30-9:30 PM

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

"Elements of Dance"
(see enclosed flyer)

CONTACT:

Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu

Thursday, November 15, 2012

5:30-8 PM, LECO, 3000 Lakeview
Avenue, St Joseph, MI 49085.

"Kalamazoo Mass Spectrometry
Discussion Group"

RSVP:

Andre.Venter@wmich.edu

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

5-9 PM, Bell's Eccentric Café

"Sustainable Science – Recycle a
Poster"

Keynote speaker John Mallett:
'Scientific Influences on the Ancient
Art of Brewing (and Drinking) Beer'
(see enclosed flyer)

CONTACT:

John.A.Wendt@pfizer.com

Feel free to contact KACS at
Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu if you
would like to announce specific
events or share links.

Announcements

Kalamazoo Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group

On November 15, LECO Corporation in St. Joseph will be the venue for the 2nd event for this industry-sponsored series. It includes dinner, refreshments, two short lectures (TBA) and a tour of the manufacturing facility. There is no admission fee. Attendees please RSVP to Andre.Venter@wmich.edu by Monday, November 12. Car-pooling is available. Additional information is available at <http://goo.gl/ZHcG6>


CGSA Student Receives NSF Fellowship

David Sellers is an active member of the WMU Chemistry Graduate Student Association and currently is pursuing a Ph.D. degree under the direction of Dr. Elke Schoffers. David recently received a coveted National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The award will cover his stipend and educational expenses for up to three years. Of the ca. 2000 applications received, 153 were awarded in Chemistry, of which 5 were given to graduate students at two Michigan universities (four to the University of Michigan and one to WMU).



David Sellers,
WMU Chemistry
Graduate Student
Association

Stay Connected!

To find your KACS on Facebook, click on the link below or go to <https://www.facebook.com/ACSKalamazoo> and LIKE() us!



Find us on
Facebook

Report: National Chemistry Week (NCW)

NCW 2012 – “Nanotechnology: the smallest BIG idea in science”

Lydia Hines

The Kalamazoo Section celebrated the theme with

- A **poster contest** for all children in grades K-12 in our Local Section; two teachers participated in 2 grade categories (6-8, 9-12) with posters submitted for National judging.
- A live **TV interview** with two of our members on Monday, October 1 [<http://archive.org/details/MNLCelebratingChemistry10-01-12.mpg>] - highlighting the topic and informing the public of the free hands-on Chemistry activity at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum; it was broadcast at least 5 times during the following 2 weeks to a coverage area of 300,000 residents.
- Our flagship event for NCW was our **hands-on science event** at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum: **Fliers** of advertisement were distributed throughout the area, the event was publicized in our **online Section newsletter** and on our **Section website**, via **e-mail** to all K-12 schools, 1000 **placemats** were delivered and used at restaurants in corridor areas and **announcements and advertisements** were published in the *Three Rivers Commercial-News*, the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, *Excelsior*, and a Kalamazoo Valley Museum quarterly **magazine**, *Museon*. Local libraries distributed 400 copies of the Celebrating Chemistry publication along with fliers to their young patrons.

This, our 26th hands-on activity (we had 2 in 1988) was attended by 727 patrons during four hours on a rainy, cold Saturday afternoon; fifty-nine (59) volunteers were on hand to present 23 activities from nano-gold, to elephant toothpaste, to slime, to nano-sand, to the volcano; these tables were staffed by high school students, college students, graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, industrial chemists, retirees, and community members. It seemed like all three floors of the museum were a-buzz with joyful learners of all ages. One incentive was the promise of a “**prize**” to visitors who completed at least 10 activities – the youngsters loved that, and at least 150 availed themselves of the opportunity and claimed a **nano mole** as their prize.



Exploring fabrication - Gummy Capsules
(Photo by Elena C. Hines)



Fun with Dry Ice – Bubbles (Photo by Elena C. Hines)

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National Chemistry Week 2012 in Pictures



A sincere thank you to the NCW organizers Lydia Hines (right) and Annette Hoppenworth (left) from Elke Schoffers (middle) (Photo by Melissa Basileo)



Silly putty experiment (Photo by Melissa Basileo)



Luminescence experiment (Photo by Melissa Basileo)

Find many more pictures on our [Facebook](#) page

Chemistry & Culture

“Discover the Elements of Dance”

by Elke Schoffers

Chemist + Dancer = Fun!

Local chemists will trade in their laboratory gear for elegant ballroom attire for “**Elements of Dance**” at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA, 314 S. Park) 6:30-9:30 PM on Friday, November 9, 2012. Chemists, dancers and the general public are invited to this FREE event.

Chemists are not just experts in their fields but are also interested in art, history, cooking, baking, brewing, sports and dancing, among others. Therefore, the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society (KACS) has initiated a new program titled “**Chemistry and Culture**”. “**Elements of Dance**” is hoped to be the first in a series that targets a broader audience by highlighting the connections between chemistry and culture.

All are welcome to observe or participate in various activities. There will be door prizes, open dances, dance showcases, a Salsa dance lesson and games to ensure a lively evening. We will also disclose the winning design for our illustration contest based on a “chemistry – dancing” theme. The graphic will adorn our custom-made T-shirts. They will be available for sale but will also be given out as prizes.

Refreshments and displays of sponsors and various student organizations will be set up in the KIA lobby. The KIA auditorium will be the venue for showcases, the dance lesson, a special demo and open dances. Dancing is not required but we sure hope that you will try.

KACS thanks its cosponsors: the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Southwest Michigan Ballroom Dance and the Kalamazoo Dance Chapter of USA Dance.

This event is made possible with funding from the American Chemical Society (ACS) and through generous donations from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Kalamazoo Spice and Extraction Company (Kalsec), Aldrich, VWR and the WMU Business Technology and Research Park.



Kalamazoo American Chemical Society – Visit us at <https://www.wmich.edu/acs> or on Facebook

Special Event



Elements of Dance



Chemist

+



Dancer

Mix
→



Friday, November 9, 2012, 6:30-9:30 PM
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
314 S. Park St.

Free Admission.

Free Snacks.

Free Dance Lesson.

Dance Showcases.

Puzzles – Win Prizes!

Music: Ballroom, Latin, Swing.

Partner not necessary – No dress code.

Open to the general public.



Limited seating. Contact Elke.Schoffers@wmich.edu by November 7 to reserve a chair.
This event is organized by the **Kalamazoo American Chemical Society (KACS) Local Section**. For additional information visit <https://www.wmich.edu/acs>.

Special Event



The **KALAMAZOO** Section
presents

Kalamazoo Sci-Mix Poster Session

“Sustainable Science - Recycle a Poster”

5:00-9:00 pm, Tuesday, December 4, 2012

6:00 pm – Keynote Speaker John Mallett:

“Scientific Influences on the Ancient Art of Brewing (and Drinking) Beer”



Bell's Eccentric Café
355 E. Kalamazoo Ave

*Open bar. Complimentary hors
d'oeuvres will be provided.*



The Kalamazoo area has always been historically rich with exciting chemistry. Please join us and share the area's wealth of exciting chemistry by bringing a poster of your chemistry accomplishments. Your poster can either be newly prepared or a recycled poster from a previous event. This Mixer invites local academic and industrial chemists from all areas of chemistry: Analytical, Biochemistry, Inorganic, Organic, and Physical, in addition to Food and Medicinal Chemistry. See you there!

Present Science, Network, Mingle, Celebrate Kalamazoo Chemistry

Attendees must be (1) a current ACS member, or (2) a poster coauthor or (3) a Pfizer employee. Poster presenters should email Dr. Wendt at john.a.wendt@pfizer.com by **Friday, November 30** to reserve an easel by sending (a) the **title(s)** of the poster(s) and (b) a **list of authors**.

Stay in touch with KACS at <http://www.wmich.edu/acs/>.

Funding provided by  **Animal Health**

Student Organizations

NOBCChE Student Chapter at WMU Recognized Nationally for Outstanding Service

Sherine Obare

The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) hosted its 39th Annual Meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington DC on September 25-28, 2012. Dr. Obare, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Western Michigan University served as the Chair for the NOBCChE Science Bowl and Science Fair. The NOBCChETM Science Bowl is a program in which middle and high school students compete as teams of four players in a double elimination quiz bowl, while the Science Fair is a poster competition in which elementary, middle and high school students present an individual completed research project. The program attracted over 150 students and teachers from around the country.

The planning of such a program takes a large amount of effort, and the NOBCChE Student Chapter at Western Michigan University stepped up to the challenge. Twelve (12) members of the organization attended the conference, presented their research, and also served as moderators, judges and timekeepers for the program. Participants included Clara Adams, Semere Bairu, Chartanay Bonner, Kelley Current, Carline Dugue, Jameel Hasan, Noah Masika, Edwin Mghanga, Cheyla Milo, Justin A. Moore, Jacinta Mutambuki, and Jared Wabeke. Each member was recognized for outstanding service in secondary education. Their extraordinary efforts toward this national program earned the chapter the Outstanding Service Award.

Chem Club at WMU

Maren Zanotti, Kevin Heinze, Emily Cobb and Scotty Lambert

The Chemistry Club at Western Michigan University is dedicated to working throughout the Kalamazoo community within local schools and districts. We perform large demonstrations for entire schools, break down into classrooms doing hands on activities with students, and participate in local science fairs. Our target audiences range from toddlers, to high school students. We also host social events to help further student's careers and help create professional connections among the arts and science community here at Western. So far this year we have volunteered at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Chemistry Day, where we made Slime with kids and students.

Upcoming events for this semester include:

- Chem Club bake sale in the Chemistry Building lobby on **October 30th**
- An apple cider social for all WMU science RSOs on **November 5th**
- A chemistry presentation for Prairie Ridge Elementary School on **November 9th**
- Volunteering for the KACS Elements of Dance event on **November 9th**
- Guest speaker, Lieutenant Marty Johnson, from the Kalamazoo Crime Lab to talk about forensic chemistry on **November 12th**

Student Organizations

Chemistry Graduate Student Association

Alia Hinz

In support of the **Community Event** associated with this year's National Chemistry Week, the Chemistry Graduate Student Association (CGSA) at Western Michigan University pursued a project with Oshtemo Township. Four CGSA members spent two and a half hours at Drake House (927 Drake Road, Oshtemo Township) on Friday, October 26; we assisted the Oshtemo Historical Society in insulating the second floor windows and sanding several wooden support beams on the front porch.

The President of the Oshtemo Historical Society was most appreciative of our efforts and time invested, and, in turn, we were pleased to have been able to contribute to a local, historic public works project.

Drake House was originally built in 1852 by Benjamin Drake, one of the first settlers in the Kalamazoo area. The house remained as private property until 2004, when it was acquired by Oshtemo Township. Since that time, the Oshtemo Historical Society has been working with Oshtemo Township to restore the house.



The CGSA members who volunteered at Drake House. From left to right: Jared Wabeke, Alia Hinz, Shino Toma, and David Sellers. (Photo by Millard Loy)



David Sellers and Jared Wabeke, sanding the pillars on the front porch. (Photo by Shino Toma)

Announcements

Award Opportunities Available to Women in Chemistry

Lydia Hines

The Women Chemists' Committee (WCC) of the American Chemical Society has several awards available to female students/chemists to attend and/or present at an ACS National Meeting. The following awards have various deadlines beginning February 15.

- The WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Award
- The Overcoming Challenges Award
- The WCC Rising Star Award
- The Priscilla Carney Jones Scholarship

For full descriptions of these and other awards, as well as application information and deadlines visit <http://womenchemists.sites.acs.org/>

NCW 2012 – “Nanotechnology: the smallest BIG idea in science”

(Continued from Page 3)

Over the 25 years that our Section has co-hosted this event with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum many patrons have become loyal participants, returning to get ideas for their own use in their classrooms, their homes, their scout troops, etc. Some who came as children themselves are now bringing their own children to introduce them to activities that meant so much to them! [Look for a testimonial in the Comment by Cheryl Frech, chair of the ACS Committee on Public Relations and Communications, in the December 10, 2012, issue of *C&EM*]. Just **this year a lawyer who brought his son to the event took copies of our ACS-provided handouts and reported later that he spent considerable time doing activities at home with his son!**

Many educational materials, from both the current and prior years, were distributed. Though the survey software was not functional through the whole afternoon there was delight registered in everyone's face during the event, and on the way out participants left with questions about the timing of our **next** activity! [The planned theme for NCW 2013 is “Energy: Now and Forever”]

- Four members of the Chemistry Graduate Student Association from Western Michigan University assisted with refurbishing efforts at a historic home in the West Kalamazoo area as a **community outreach** to highlight the concept of “Making More with Less” (Read more about it on Page 9).

A **reminder** to our members that the **mission of NCW** is to reach the public, particularly elementary and secondary school students, with positive messages about chemistry; its **major thrust is the improvement of the public's impression of the role chemistry and chemists play in every aspect of our way of life and its quality** – in the matters of health, materials, energy, technology, and the environment.