Newsletter for the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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Issue Highlights…

Project SEED Students Present! You are invited—Please Attend at Kalamazoo College

Yanari Raines (L) and Riannat Sanusi (R) – Kalamazoo Local Section Project SEED Fellows – Summer 2019

Introducing our 2019 Project SEED Fellows

Dear Local Section Members, I am delighted to introduce you to our current Project SEED Fellows. Project SEED provides summer research experiences in chemistry for high school students from low income households. This has been a powerful program. Over 11,000 students have participated, and ACS Assessments show that it has had a strong impact on the academic and career pathways of those students. The Kalamazoo local section has sponsored 75 student projects in the last 25 years. Each Project SEED fellowship costs our local section about $2000 after matching funds from ACS. Your donations to national or local section Project SEED programs are vital to the success of the program. Donations to our local section funds are allocated entirely for local student stipends. Please contact me at dwilliams@kalsec.com if you would like to learn more about supporting us.

You have an opportunity to meet both of our Project SEED fellows in person and hear about their work at a summer research symposium in the Kalamazoo College Dow Science Center from 11 AM – 2 PM on Friday, Aug 23. Please join us if you are interested and available.
Doug Williams (Kalamazoo ACS Project SEED Coordinator)

Yanari Raines (by Yanari)
I am a rising senior at Kalamazoo Central High School and I will be graduating in June of 2020. My current interests and hobbies are running both cross country and track, starting my internship through my law enforcement EFE, and volunteering. My current plans after high school, however, are to start my path to becoming a Unites States Marine. I will be attending an NROTC college in the South and training to become an officer in the summer. And even though my career path does not correlate directly with chemistry I still have the chance to major in any subject I want. Therefore, after being a part of Project SEED I will definitely consider majoring in the sciences. I learned about this opportunity through my high school chemistry teacher, Dr. Chartanay Bonner. At first, I was not sure about applying because I didn't have much science experience (only biology and honors chemistry), but soon that became the exact reason why I wanted to. My Project SEED mentor is Dr. Kelly Teske (WMU Chemistry) and our project is focused on developing analogues of 2-4-diphenylquinazoline. However, our goal is to manipulate this small molecule to globally upregulate tumor suppressive miRNA in breast cancer. What I appreciate about this project so far is how hands on it is compared to high school classes, the challenge it brings with its advanced information, and the one on one teaching. I am the only Project SEED fellow at WMU this year but I think it is helpful to schedule periodic meetings with other Project SEED fellows throughout the summer. Even though we have different projects I can say from experience that we struggle the same. We both know it's one thing to be the youngest student in a lab, but to know next to nothing about organic chemistry is even harder. To future Project SEED fellows, I recommend that you stay focused, open minded, and positive. But you also have to be patient, (especially if you ever run a preparative chromatography column ☺). Just understand that organic chemistry is probably one of the hardest subjects you will ever encounter, so ask questions! And remember, no one expects you to come in as a chemical genius, but I promise with time you will fit right in.

Riannat Sanusi (by Doug Williams)
Riannat is a rising junior at Kalamazoo Central High School, who plans to graduate in June 2021. She came to the US about four years ago with her family from Nigeria, where her mom ran her own food business and Riannat began to learn some agricultural science. Riannat continues to be interested in math and science and plans to take advanced chemistry this fall. She is not sure of her study plans beyond high school but is presently hoping to attend Univ. of Michigan or Michigan State Univ. Riannat was also a member of the KCHS Mock Trial Team that won its 21st Michigan

State Championship and competed in May in Athens, GA at the Nationals. Riannat learned about Project SEED from her high school chemistry teacher, Dr. Chartanay Bonner. Her Project SEED mentor is Dr. Dwight Williams (Kalamazoo Chemistry). She is working on the synthesis of novel non-nitrogenous serotonin receptor ligands based upon the 2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone scaffold. Her work builds upon the work of previous Project SEED students Victor Plascencia (2017) and Daniel Calco (2018) in the Dr. Williams group at K-College.

Outreach Training Program Webinar Series

Register Now for the Outreach Training Program Webinar Series!

The Outreach Training Program (OTP) is designed to help ACS Members improve their science outreach skills and fully maximize Society resources for planning hands-on science events. In-person workshops will be offered at two regional meetings (NERM and SERMACS). If you can't attend the training in person, register now for the seven-webinar series offered through the ACS Learning Management System.

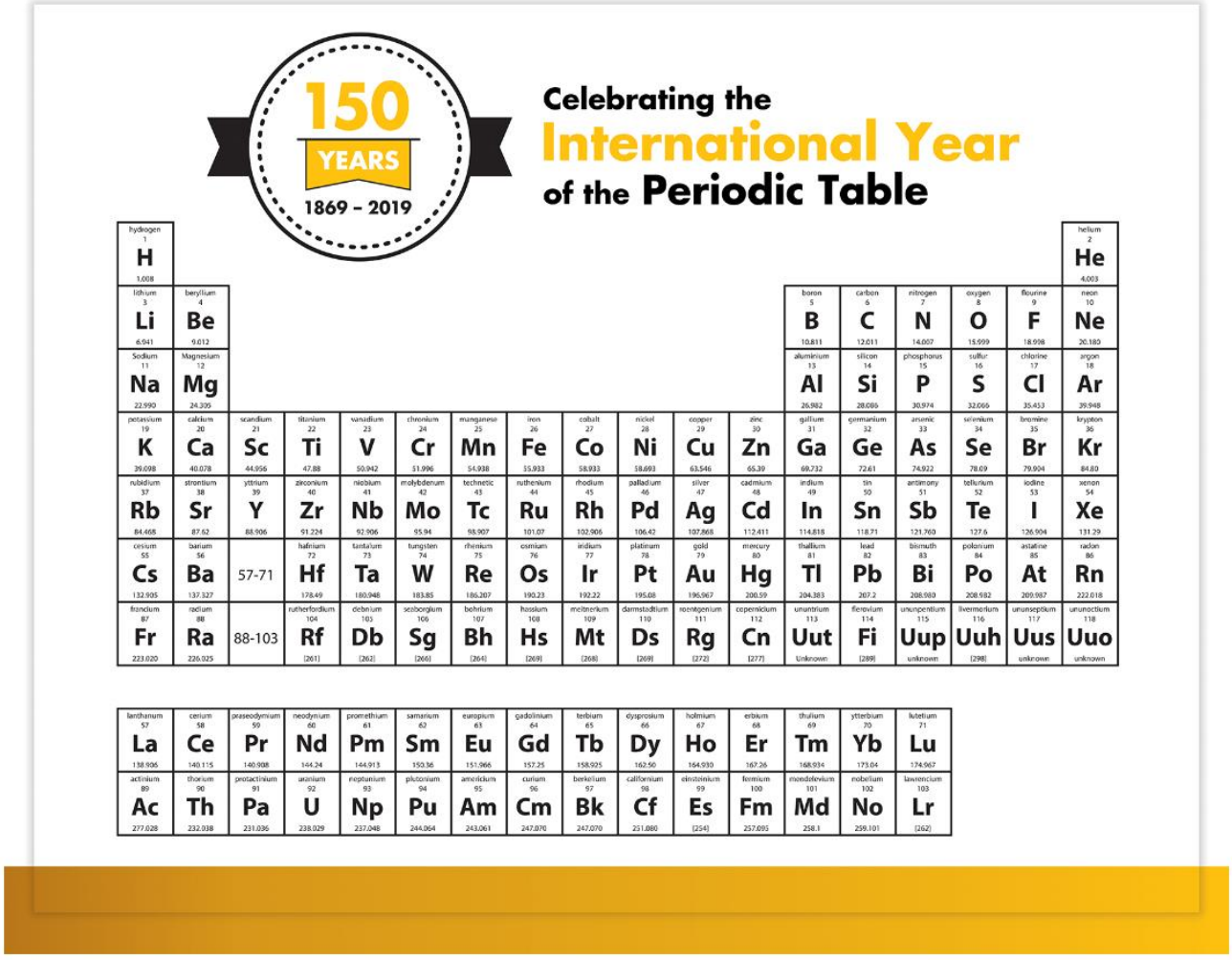
The program includes sessions on the history of ACS Outreach, safety in outreach settings, event planning and fundraising, communicating through hands-on activities, marketing and partnerships, leading volunteers, and monitoring success. Attendees will learn to successfully plan and execute hands-on science outreach events, as well as have an opportunity to network and build a community with others who are passionate about science outreach and ACS. For more information, click below to register, visit the OTP web page or contact outreach@acs.org.

Celebrate IYPT!

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mendeleev's development of the first periodic table of the elements, making 2019 the International Year of the Periodic Table!
https://www.iypt2019.org/

Visit the ACS periodic table page:
https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/periodictable.html

For a list of events and resources, including the World's Largest Periodic Table event out on 19 October at Grand Valley State University:
https://www.facebook.com/events/2261489874120479/?active_tab=ab



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

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

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or