EMIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

August 2014, Vol. 51, No. 8

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Why My Family and I Volunteer with ACS

Michelle Rivard, MMTG Chair, Sci-Fest Co-chair, Outreach & Publicity Committees

Recently, Gina Malczewski gave a talk at the local section ACS Spring Awards banquet on the advantages and disadvantages of volunteering. Her list of advantages far outweighed the disadvantages and I couldn't have agreed more with her.

For me, volunteering with the ACS is truly a family affair. My kids tag along to most of the Kids and Chemistry events we do. They either help before, during, or after each and every event that I am involved in—which is a lot of events! My husband gets roped into a lot of the behind the scenes aspects, which include packing and loading supplies and sometimes fabricating things for me. Recently, he machined a new part for the ACS banner when it broke.

Yes, my dining room table is currently covered with ACS-related stuff, and a portion of my basement is dedicated to storing it, but the benefits of volunteering are enormous and far outweigh these little disadvantages!



Upper left, Michelle Rivard; lower left, Alyssa Rivard and best friend, Cierra; upper right, Matthew Rivard; and lower right, Kayla Psenski. Photos courtesy of Michelle Rivard and Kayla Psenski.

Volunteering connects you to others. Networking is such an important aspect of our current culture and volunteering can greatly increase your support system. When I went back to school to finish my degree, I used my network of friends and colleagues to proofread and edit papers, help with homework, and refresh skills that were rusty due to non-use. A huge shout out to those I have bugged, and continue to bug, while I finish my degree—Thank You!

Volunteering increases your social and relationship skills. Volunteering gives you opportunities to develop and polish your important "soft" skills, such as organization, initiative, communication, and teamwork. Let's be honest, it never hurts to hone and polish our "soft" skills.

Volunteering increases self-confidence. I have been dragging my kids to different Kids and Chemistry events for years. At first, my oldest would only stand around and get me things (sometimes reluctantly) when I asked. Now she is more apt to take an active role whether it is taking pictures or taking the lead on the "fun" parts (as she calls them) of the demos. On a more personal note, taking the lead on demos, being the 2014 chair of MMTG and an associate to the ACS National Project Seed Committee have given me confidence in my leadership and public speaking skills.

Volunteering can teach you valuable skills and expand your knowledge. We recently had a birthday in our family and I caught my seven year old sucking the helium out of her sister's Mylar balloon and explaining to the neighbor girls why her voice went up several octaves. This explanation is a small part of one of our more popular demos—Diet Coke and Mentos. In this demo we talk about gases, density, surface tension, surfactants, acids and bases, and the effect of temperature. That my seven year old learned something, and passed that knowledge along, really reinforces why I find it so much fun and beneficial to volunteer with ACS.

Volunteering helps you stay both mentally and physically healthy. I have read statistics that helping others through volunteering kindles happiness. They say that people who volunteer on a weekly basis are both mentally and physically healthier and happier individuals. For more information on this effect, please see the benefits of volunteering.

Come check out what your local section is up to. The Midland Section of the ACS has a new photo share site. Follow the link (https://midlandacs.shutterfly.com/) and ask to join today! It is a private site where ACS-related pictures are uploaded for sharing with members. By joining you will be able to keep up with upcoming events.

I have personally seen and experienced the benefits of volunteering and hope to pass along my passion of science outreach to my kids and others.

ACS Day at the Midland County Fair, August 14 Michelle Rivard, MMTG Chair, Sci-Fest Co-chair, Outreach & Publicity Committees

This year's ACS Day at the Midland County Fair will be held Thursday, August 14, 4:30-7:30 PM in the tan picnic building located at the north end of the grandstand. Once again, tickets for discounted ride bands will be available for purchase. They will be just \$14 apiece and good for all day (1:00-11:00 PM).

New this year, we will be giving out food tickets to help facilitate how much food is needed. We will have free hot dogs, chips, popcorn, cotton candy and drinks. Food tickets will be good for one trip through the food line. Science demos and possibly face painting will also be available during this event.

Advance ride and food tickets will be available beginning in early August. For more information and advance ride and food tickets, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com, Cassie Hale at cassandra.hale@dowcorning.com, or Sue Perz at sue.perz@dowcorning.com.



Seeking Membership Input for Fall ACS Council Voting Tina Leaym, Councilor

The ACS Fall National Meeting is coming quickly. There are several items up for action at the Council meeting. This information is presented to the Midland Section ACS board, but we would welcome input from the Section membership on any of the below items.

There are three committees that are electing members for 2015-2017:

Committee on Committees

- Key responsibilities: assist and advise on appointments of chairs and members of Councilrelated bodies; make recommendations concerning responsibilities and size of committees.
- The committee has selected the following slate of candidates for 2015-2017 term; we will
 elect 5: Spiro Alexandratos, Mark Benvenuto, Mitchell Bruce, Judith Currano, Jetty Duffy-

Matzner, Kathleen Gibboney, Helen (Bonnie) Lawlor, Zaida Morales-Martinez, Robert Pribush, Patricia Redden

Council Policy Committee

- Key responsibilities: serve as Executive Committee for Council; create candidate slate for Nominations and Elections; long range and strategic planning; recommend positions on amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- The committee has selected the following slate of candidates; we will elect 5: Lawrence
 Barton, Dwight Chasar, Lynne Greenblatt, Martha Hollomon, Peter Jurs, Pamela Kistler, Doris
 Lewis, Christopher Masi, Andrea Twiss-Brooks, Linette Watkins

Committee on Nominations and Elections

- Key responsibilities: receive petitions for President-Elect, District Director, Director-at-Large; rank candidates; supervise Society elections; conduct elections in Council; serve as appeals board for local section and division elections. Email: nomelect@acs.org
- The committee has selected the following slate of candidates; we will elect 5: Anthony
 Addison, John Finley, Lydia Hines, Roland Hirsch, Robert Lichter, Mamie Moy, Anne O'Brien,
 Eleanor Siebert, Herbert Silber, Ralph Wheeler

From the Committee of Economic and Professional Affairs, there are recommended updates to the Professional Employment Guidelines, 9th Edition:

Under Benefits, Retirement

- Changing recommended time for vesting of employer matching funds from 6 years to 3 years
- Changing recommended service time for participation from 2 years to 1 year

Under Safety, Health, and the Environment

 Adding language about safety education, training for high hazard materials, minimizing hazard and exposure risk

Under Professional Development

 Adding language about support for attendance at conferences with employer reimbursement or paid time off

The Philadelphia Local Section is petitioning to have its boundary extended to include the Ocean County Local Section.

An application has been received for the formation of the South Africa International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

If you have an opinion on any of the above business items, please share your input with one of the Midland Section Councilors (Tina Leaym, Bob Howell) ahead of the Council meeting. The Council meeting is the morning of August 13th. Councilors can be reached at tina.leaym@dowcorning.com or howel1ba@cmich.edu.

Loco for Cocoa! Coming to Sacred Heart Academy—August 26 Gina Malczewski, Secretary / Outreach

The American Chemical Society – Midland Section presents a FREE Science Café: "Loco for Cocoa!" on August 26 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Sacred Heart Academy, located at 316 E. Michigan St., Mt. Pleasant 48858.

"Loco for Cocoa: The Chemistry of Chocolate" features Chef Aaron Gaertner of the Saginaw Career Complex and Gina Malczewski discussing the fruit of the plant whose Greek name means "food of the gods." Discover the history, chemistry and uses of white, milk, dark, Swiss, and Belgian chocolate. And of course there will be samples!

Appropriate for ages 10 and up; not recommended for younger children. For more information, please contact Gina Malczewski: reginamalczewski@gmail.com.



Call for Nominations for 2015 Officer and Director Candidates Chelsea Quinn, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Here is your chance to become more involved in your local ACS section. We need candidates to run for the following positions for 2015:

Chair-elect (1-year term)
Secretary (1-year term)
Treasurer (1-year term)
Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (1-year term)
Councilor (3-year term)
Alternate Councilor (3-year term)
Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Chelsea Quinn at chelsea.quinn@dowcorning.com or 989-496-1694. If you have any questions regarding the responsibilities of any of the positions, please contact the current officers or Chelsea Quinn, or you are welcome to visit our website at www.midlandacs.org. Our local section handbook also provides further details at ACSMidlandSectionHandbook.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the September 15th, 2014 Board meeting, held at 6:00 PM, location TBD. Please be aware that any nominees will have to accept their nomination prior to the announcement from the floor.

If you are not keen on running for a board position, there are still many other great areas and committees for you to serve. Open committee positions are listed below.

Membership	Webmaster	Fall Scientific Meeting
Midland Chemist (Editor)	Chemistry Olympiad	Long Range Planning
Technical Society Interface	Publicity	Corporate Agent

There are a variety of compelling reasons to take advantage of the chance to become involved as an officer, director, or committee leader of the Midland Section ACS: networking beyond your work-place, an opportunity to provide vision and voice to your local scientific community, and a chance to hone your interpersonal and leadership skills. Please consider getting involved with the Midland Section ACS.

Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Update Jaime Curtis-Fisk, Chair, Midland WCC

The Women Chemists Committee has been busy planning several upcoming events. As everyone is returning from summer vacations and settling into fall there will be a series of great activities to look forward to. Our three key focus areas of outreach, career development, and networking are reflected well in this mix, offering everyone the opportunity to take part in the areas that are of most interest to them. Be sure to save the dates and contact the organizers if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



Connecting STEM and American Girl: Midland WCC is proud to announce that we will be partnering with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Midland Center for the Arts to integrate a STEM experience into the upcoming American Girl Fashion Show[®]. Three sessions of the event will take place on October 11 and 12 at the Midland Center for the Arts and are expected to draw in an attendance of 1,500 to 2,000. Girls participate in the event as models for American Girl character outfits and through this activity they learn the historical connection to each of the dolls and, more importantly, gain confidence and self-esteem from participating.

WCC has the unique opportunity of bridging fashion and science by working with the girls on hands-on activities while they are not on stage and reaching their entire families with activities in the lobby before and after the show. Our intent is to develop a program of activities related to the chemistry of art or fashion so that the girls and their families will experience that science is around them everywhere, even at a fashion show. We need plenty of volunteers to help generate ideas, plan the activities, prepare the demonstrations, and facilitate the program at the shows. If you would like more information on the fashion show, please visit http://www.mcfta.org/event/american-girl/. For questions on WCC involvement or volunteer options, please contact Jaime Curtis-Fisk at ilcurtisfisk@dow.com.

WCC at the Fall Scientific Meeting: The local section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting will be held at Delta College on Saturday, September 27th. Midland WCC is committed to having a presence at this event. The WCC steering committee is considering options for programming that will strengthen the overall content of the meeting while addressing topics of interest to the WCC community. This is a great leadership opportunity to be involved with selecting and coordinating these activities. If you are interested in volunteering or have suggestions on program ideas, please contact Wendy Flory at wcflory@dow.com.

Fall Networking Event: Save the date for a "Networking Event and Seminar" with Carol Williams on the evening of October 28. Please contact Beata Kilos at bakilos@dow.com for more information or to join the event planning committee.

Call for Volunteers for ACS Science Coaches Program Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee and Secretary

The ACS Science Coaches program is open again and looking for volunteers for the 2014-2015 school year! Please see the information below for more details. The mentioned "surprise" will probably be the initial contact you have with the teacher about the opportunity. He or she will actually be contacted by ACS, too, before approval, so you need to get the teacher on board first.

The Midland Section ACS was actually one of the pilot sections for this National ACS program, and we have many current and former participants who can share their experiences with you and answer any questions.



You can begin by contacting Michelle Rivard at michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com or 989-496-5399, or Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com or 989-631-4038 if you think we can help, or for any questions. Thank you.

Michigan Green Labs Initiative Workshop, August 12 Jennifer Acevedo, Office of Environmental Assistance, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Join the discussion at the second annual Michigan Green Labs Initiative (MGLI) workshop, *Making Labs Safer and More Sustainable*, graciously hosted by Michigan State University at the Molecular Plant Sciences Building in East Lansing on August 12, as we continue building a network of green lab professional partners in Michigan. Presentations will be given by MSU on HVAC controls, energy conservation, and reducing chemical hazards without hindering research. We will also share additional case studies and best practices and distribute MGLI materials that can serve as the basis of a program for implementation at your institution.

The registration fee of \$25 includes all materials, a catered lunch, and a lab tour of MSU facilities. For more information or to register, see <u>Michigan Green Labs Initiative Workshop</u>. For registration questions, contact Alana Berthold at 517-284-6854 or <u>bertholda@michigan.gov</u>. Program questions should be addressed to Chris Affeldt at affeldtc@michigan.gov.

CERM 2014 – Registration and Call for Papers Heather Juzwa, General Co-Chair, CERM 2014

The registration form for the CERM 2014 meeting is now available online at <u>CERM 2014 Registration Form</u>. The abstract submission process is now open and ready to accept papers as well at <u>abstracts.acs.org</u>. Please note that the deadline date for the call for papers is Friday, August 29. General information about anything you may wish to know about CERM 2014 can be found at <u>www.acscerm2014.org</u>.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to seeing you at CERM 2014! Any questions or concerns should be addressed to Heather Juzwa, General Co-Chair, CERM 2014, via e-mail to <a href="https://hittage.nih.gov/hitt

2014 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference, November 12 Jennifer Acevedo, Office of Environmental Assistance, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan State University are hosting the 2014 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference, otherwise known as the 6th "GreenUp Conference," on November 12 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. This year's theme is *Cultivating Next Generation Solutions*. Green chemistry and engineering are all about designing, innovating, and manufacturing what's next and developing less hazardous, more effective materials, processes, and products. Green chemistry and engineering can help businesses create new markets, reduce costs, increase safety, and gain a competitive edge.

The conference will offer an excellent opportunity for ACS Michigan local section members to network and learn about cutting edge technologies in green chemistry and engineering. Your members can participate by submitting a paper, applying for a Governor's Award, securing a sponsorship, or attending. Contact Jennifer Acevedo at acevedoj@michigan.gov if you have any questions.

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist Wendell L. Dilling, Director and Historian*

50 Years Ago

In *The Professional Chemist – Obligation Side of Professionalism*, by R. A. Hickner: "In recent years, there has been a sharp rise in interest in professionalism among chemists. An indication of this on the local scene was the formation of the Professional Relations and Status Committee. Another indication was the large attendance at lectures by Mr. David Roethel and Dr. H. S. Friedman. Professionalism carries with it several obligations. One of the foremost of these obligations is to keep up with recent developments in the chemical field. One of the means to this end is the monthly meeting. About 30-35% of the budget for the Midland Section is spent on this lecture series. About five years ago, the Program Committee was revamped to supplement the tour speakers with other well-known speakers on timely subjects. Despite the efforts of the Program Committee and the amount of money spent in this area, attendance is still at quite a low level (6-15% of total membership)."

40 Years Ago

In *Chairman's Column*, by Gary E. LeGrow: "During April and May of 1974, many of the activities of the ACS Midland Section were cancelled due to the labor problems at the Dow Chemical Company. The Board of Directors met in early August and has decided that the programs originally scheduled for the Fall of 1974 must go on regardless of the labor situation at Dow, in particular so that ACS members who do not work at Dow are not penalized because of this labor situation. In addition any funds not used this year will be allocated to an even better program in 1975."

30 Years Ago

In ACS Chooses No Position on Nuclear Test Ban, by Norman Hackerman, Chairman of the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and 15 other members of the Committee: "At its meeting on March 14-15, 1984, the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs considered, among other items, the following: Northeastern and Peoria Resolutions on Nuclear Arms Test Ban. In its issue of June 13, 1983, C&EN published a letter from Dr. Glenn Seaborg in which he proposed a comprehensive test ban (CTB) as the simplest and quickest way to move forward in nuclear arms control. In December, the ACS Northeastern Section adopted a resolution supporting Dr. Seaborg's proposal and urging that the ACS Board of Directors present this resolution to the membership for approval. On February 28, 1984, the Peoria Section approved a resolution asking that Dr. Seaborg's proposal be submitted to the members in a special referendum to be held as soon as possible after the St. Louis meeting. In addition, the Section recommended that ACS develop a position paper addressing the nuclear arms race. The Committee extensively discussed the Northeastern and Peoria Sections' proposals. Dr. John Deutch said that in his opinion CTB is the least realistic of arms control measures. He added that arms control and national security are very complex issues. In response to a comment that nuclear test bans can be verified, it was pointed out that the issue is not detectability but the significance of nondetected testing. Recognizing the importance of arms control to our entire world, the Committee agreed that ACS members as informed citizens should be urged to give careful consideration to arms control proposals of all types, including a world-wide comprehensive nuclear test ban. However, the general viewpoint of the Committee members was that considerations in arms control are more political than technical, and therefore outside of the ACS's expertise. Consequently, the Committee in general did not favor the Peoria Section's recommendation that ACS develop a position paper addressing the nuclear arms race and the recommendation of both Local Sections that an ACS referendum be conducted on the resolution concerning CTB. The Committee VOTED to recommend that it would be inappropriate for the American Chemical Society to take a position on specific arms control proposals."

20 Years Ago

In *History of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society*, by A. Lee Smith, V. A. Stenger, F. K. Voci, and E. L. Warrick: "The years of World War I had seen severe shortages of chemicals previously imported from Germany. When the U. S. entered the war in 1917, many chemists enlisted or were drafted into the service. After Armistice Day, (1918), many of these men returned as students or faculty members, or to industrial positions. The Dow Chemical Co. had been growing, but the end of the war saw the cancellation of most existing orders for war materials. During the war, Dow had reached an employment level of 3000, but overnight that had to be reduced to 500. Despite (or perhaps because of) the concern to find new markets, the Dow leaders felt it was time to bring in the latest chemical knowledge. Wartime had severely curtailed travel, and scientific discussions were limited to conversations with one's coworkers. A local section of the ACS seemed to be the solution. A petition was sent to National ACS headquarters, and on December 8, 1919, a charter was granted. The Midland Section reported 30 paid members for 1919."

10 Years Ago

In Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, by John Blizzard: "As with National Chemistry Day, Earth Day (April 22, 2004) has become Earth Week in the Midland Section. The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, National City Bank, Ogemaw Heights High School, Culligan, and Rainsoft joined forces to help celebrate Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2004 was "What do you know about H2O?' Students from Ogemaw Heights High School, under the direction of chemistry teacher Doug Grezeszak, provided free water analysis for the public. The free testing took place at several locations over a one-week period in the Section. These included National City Bank, local grade schools, and intermediate schools. Personnel from Culligan and Rainsoft trained a total of 22 Ogemaw Heights High School advanced placement chemistry students in water testing analysis. These students then performed the water testing for total dissolved solids, iron, and hardness at the public testing sites. Approximately 680 area students were involved by bringing water samples from home for analysis. These data are being compiled by the high school students to form a countywide water quality map of the water analysis. When the data and mapping analysis is complete, the information will be sent home with area students so that parents can compare their individual water analysis to assist in determining if they should seek further testing and evaluation of their home drinking water."

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- August 9 (7:30 AM 12:00 PM) Great Lakes Bay Region NOBCChE Science Enrichment Camp sessions, Thompson Middle School, 3021 Court Street, Saginaw. For more information or to volunteer, contact Vennesa Williams at vowilliams@dow.com or 989-633-4354.
- August 10–14 248th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, San Francisco, CA. For more information, see http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/fall-2014.html.
- August 12 (9:00 AM 3:00 PM) Second annual Michigan Green Labs Initiative Workshop, Making Labs
 Safer and More Sustainable. Molecular Plant Sciences Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing.
 For more information or to register, see Michigan Green Labs Initiative Workshop.
- August 14 (4:30-7:30 PM) ACS Day at the Midland County Fair. Discounted ride bands, free food tickets, and science demos at the tan building north of the grandstand. For more information and advance ride and food tickets, please contact Gina Malczewski (<u>reginamalczewski@gmail.com</u>), Cassie Hale (cassandra.hale@dowcorning.com), or Sue Perz (sue.perz@dowcorning.com).
- August 25 (5:30-9:00 PM) Midland Section ACS 3rd Quarter Committee updates and dinner meeting.
 Venue to be determined. Contact Michelle Cummings (<u>michelle.cummings@dowcorning.com</u>) for questions.

- August 26 (6:30-8:30 PM) Midland Section presents a FREE Science Café: Loco for Cocoa! at Sacred Heart
 Academy, located at 316 E. Michigan St., Mt. Pleasant 48858. For more information, please contact Gina
 Malczewski: reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- August 29 Call for papers abstracts deadline for CERM 2014. Questions or concerns should be directed
 to Heather Juzwa, General Co-Chair, CERM 2014, via e-mail to hlipuzwa@shimadzu.com or by phone at
 617-293-8279.
- September 20 (11:00 AM) Recognition of Edison's Lab as a National Historic Chemical Landmark, Menlo Park Laboratory at The Henry Ford, Greenfield Village, Dearborn. For more information and updates, visit www.acs.org/landmarks.
- September 27 (save the date) 2014 Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting, Delta College.
- October 1–4 45th ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2014), Pittsburgh, PA. For more information, see www.acscerm2014.org.
- October 6 (7:00-9:00 PM) ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- October 11 (12:00 PM & 4:00 PM) Connecting STEM and American Girl, Women Chemists Committee volunteer event, Midland Center for the Arts. For more information on the American Girl Fashion Show®, please visit http://www.mcfta.org/event/american-girl/. For questions on Women Chemists Committee involvement and volunteer opportunities related to this event, please contact Jaime Curtis-Fisk at jlcurtisfisk@dow.com.
- October 12 (2:00 PM) Connecting STEM and American Girl, Women Chemists Committee volunteer event, Midland Center for the Arts. For more information on the American Girl Fashion Show®, please visit http://www.mcfta.org/event/american-girl/. For questions on Women Chemists Committee involvement and volunteer opportunities related to this event, please contact Jaime Curtis-Fisk at ilcurtisfisk@dow.com.
- October 28 (evening event, save the date) Women Chemists Committee "Networking Event and Seminar" with Carol Williams. Venue to be determined. For more information, please contact Beata Kilos at bakilos@dow.com.
- October 30 Deadline for enrollment in the 2014-2015 ACS Science Coaches Program. For more information, or to sign up, see www.acs.org/sciencecoaches.
- November 3 (7:00-9:00 PM) ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- November 12 (save the date) 2014 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference (the 6th "GreenUp Conference"), Cultivating Next Generation Solutions, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Contact Jennifer Acevedo at acevedoj@michigan.gov if you have any questions.

The Midland Chemist is published twelve times a year by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, P.O. Box 2695, Midland, MI 48641-2695, http://www.midlandacs.org.

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