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*From the Chair***Join In, Join Up, and Come to the Fair!**

I mentioned in my last column that I'm delighted by the level of support I'm getting this year; many more offers of help and cooperation than I could reasonably have expected. I'm glad to say that this pleasant streak continues. The latest willing volunteer is Pat Smith. The career direction of one of our directors took a turn away from chemistry, which coupled with competing time pressures, had regretfully created a vacancy. I'm delighted to report that Pat has graciously agreed to serve in their place for the rest of the year. Pat narrowly missed being elected to a director's position in the election last fall and to say yes now is a mark of fine character. Welcome, Pat, and many thanks for your enthusiastic acceptance. You join a fine group of fellow directors. You may not all know that we have nine directors, each of whom usually serves a three-year term. Pat's peers, many of whom are serving on other committees and positions for us, are Deb Bergstrom, Ann Birch, Wendell Dilling, George Eastland, Connie Murphy, Joan Sabourin, Art Smith, and Dave Stickle. A big thank you.



Mike Owen, Chair  
ACS Midland Section

I should also like to thank all those volunteers, led by Wendy Mathews, from the Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG), Science Literacy, Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), and the ACS Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH), who are working hard as I write to organize our Science Demonstrations and Professional Day at the Midland County Fair. I must confess that my original opinion earlier in the year was that this was an optional activity where we might make some needed expense savings by doing very little or nothing at all. However, the enthusiasm of Wendy has convinced me that these county fair events provide a unique opportunity for showing appreciation to our members and families, soliciting new members, and reaching out to the local community. More details are available elsewhere in this issue, but I urge you to join Wendy and her volunteers at the fair this month. See you there!

Of the three important opportunities listed by Wendy, I should like to draw particular attention to one of them that is growing in significance. This is the opportunity to solicit new members. Our membership at the beginning of the year was 807, down about 5% from a year ago. While this drop is not alarming, and it is easy to find explanations such as corporate downsizing to account for it, it is not a trend I should like to see continue.

You are most probably aware that there is an ACS 2003 Member-Get-A-Member sweepstakes competition underway at present so, clearly, this is not solely a local issue. The national goal is to add 1,000 new members. As we are approximately 0.5% of the total membership, this only means finding five new people for our section—a very modest goal indeed. I would encourage you to consider participating in the sweepstakes. Who knows, you might even be the big prize winner. It seems when new members are asked why they didn't join before, the prime reason is "nobody asked me"! So please consider asking a few people. If my experience this year is any guide, you should hear "yes" more often than "no."

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## Welcome to New Midland Section Members!

*By Connie Murphy*

**W**elcome! to the following people who have either joined the American Chemical Society or transferred into the Midland Section during the past several months.

Debbie Bailey

Kathleen Barnes

Sarah L. Beery

Somnath Bhattacharjee

William G. Bradford

Manson C. Carpenter

Susan Carrington

John G. Cobler

Mary Coe

Stan J. Dent

Timothy I. Elwell

Carleton L. Gaupp

Pamela R. Halpin

Martin J Hilger

Shao-Ching Hung

Mary Ann Jones

George Kaminski

Bruce King

Russell K. King

Tzu-Chi Kuo

Sharyl A. Majorski

Gary E. Mitchell

John A. Moore

Brian M. Naasz

Gerard Nowaczyk

Michael D. Parker

Attila G. Relenyi

Aroop K. Roy

Lisa M. Seibel

Gary E. Spilman

Daniel R. Stull

Warren L. Treptow

Lisa M. Vanommeren

David E. Wallick

William D. Watson

Anteneh Worku

Fagen Zhang



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## Midland Section Honors 50-Year Members

*By Peggy Hill*

**T**he Midland Section salutes nine members who are celebrating 50 years with the American Chemical Society. Four of the 50-year members were recognized at the awards banquet in May. The remaining awards will be presented at the Fall Scientific Meeting in October. Congratulations to these long-time colleagues!

Robert J. Cierzniewski is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he earned a B.S. degree in 1948 and an M.S. degree in library science in 1952. In 1953 he joined The Dow Chemical Company and contributed to the indexing and abstracting of ideas for patents as a patent librarian for the company. Retiring in 1986, Cierzniewski resides in Bay City, Michigan, and keeps fit as an avid bicyclist and swimmer.



*Robert Cierzniewski*

Vernon A. Fauver spent 45 years in process research and process engineering at The Dow Chemical Company after completing B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemical engineering at Purdue University. Fauver served as chair of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry in 1974 and chair of the Advisory Panel of *CHEMTECH*, an ACS publication, in 1975. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1974 from the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Although he formally retired from Dow in 1996, Fauver remains active as a consultant for pollution analysis, and he participates in the Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program. He resides in Midland with his wife, Dorothy.



*Vernon Fauver*

Henry E. Hennis has a 30-year history with The Dow Chemical Company, retiring in 1986 as a senior associate scientist in research and development. His path to Dow wound by way of the University of Minnesota, where he earned a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1950, followed by the University of Missouri, where he completed a Ph.D. in 1956. His current interests include travel and farming. He lives in Coleman, Michigan.

Robert L. Hotchkiss has a 35-year association with The Dow Chemical Company, having been involved in product and process research and development from 1951 to 1986. From 1952 to 1968 he also served as a munitions officer as a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. From 1987 to

1995, he held vice-president and executive vice-president positions at the Michigan Molecular Institute. He holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from Southern Methodist University as well as graduate and technical training from several universities and military institutions. Although formally retired, Hotchkiss continues to be actively involved with a number of businesses and enterprises including OmniTech International, Ltd., Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Ltd., Carbtex Corporation, and several others. He and his wife, Ann, live in Midland and enjoy world travel.

Donald Ingebrigtsen earned a B.S. degree from Valparaiso University in 1951 and went on to earn an M.S. degree from the University of Iowa in 1953. He then joined Dow Corning Corporation where he applied his training to analytical research. Retiring from Dow Corning after 34 years, Ingebrigtsen remained active in the chemical field as a consultant for D&I Inc. from 1985 to 1993. He lives in Midland with his wife, Joann, and pursues interests in watch and clock collecting and woodworking.

I. Arthur Murphy began his education in Michigan at Michigan State University where he earned a B.S. degree in 1954. He then headed southwest to Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) for doctoral work, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1957. He spent four years with Certain-Teed Products and then 25 years with The Dow Chemical Company as a chemist and patent agent. Following his retirement in 1982, Murphy served six years as a consultant for Dow. He and his wife, Hattie, have enjoyed extensive travel during their retirement. They currently live in Midland.



*I. Arthur Murphy*

Donald R. Petersen is a 1951 graduate of Lawrence College (Appleton, WI) and a 1955 graduate of Cal Tech, where he completed doctoral stud-

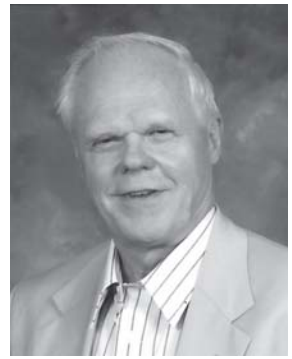
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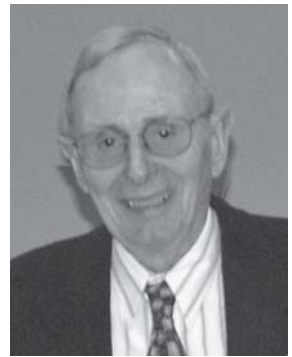
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(989) 964-6096 or visit: [www.svsu.edu/gradadm/](http://www.svsu.edu/gradadm/)

ies. His Ph.D. led him to The Dow Chemical Company, where he spent 31 years engaged in research activities in spectroscopy, chemical physics, chemical processes, and computation research. Since his retirement in 1986, Petersen has served as a consultant for the Analytical Research Lab at Dow Corning, and as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Testing and Evaluation* (ASTM International). He and his wife, Donna, raised five children in Midland, where they still reside.



*Donald Petersen*

In 1951 John Saam went from Minnesota, where he earned a B.S. from St. Thomas University (St. Paul, MN), to Iowa, where he continued academic pursuits to complete an M.S. (1954) and a Ph.D. (1956) at the University of Iowa (Iowa City). He made his way to Michigan in 1956 as an employee of Dow Corning Corporation, where he became a senior scientist specializing in silicone research. Before retiring from Dow Corning in 1991, Saam served as a visiting professor in 1982–83 at the University of Minnesota and a visiting scientist at the Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) in 1991. Since retiring, he continues to have interests in research at MMI and enjoys cross-country skiing as well as sketching and painting. He and his wife raised five children in the Midland area, where they still live.



*John Saam*

Ted Selby graduated from the University of Detroit in 1950 with a B.S. in chemistry. To support himself during college he ran a small business making sausage casings. In 1950 he joined Ford Motor Company; in 1951 he began working for Gage Products in static electrification, a process that later led to the antitrust techniques used in automobiles. He joined General Motors in 1952, working with fuels and lubricants. At the same time he was attending night school at Wayne State University where he obtained an M.S. in physical chemistry and completed the coursework for a Ph.D. from 1952 to 1960. Selby and his wife, Jean, had already started on their family, which would grow to 10 children. From 1964 to 1971, Selby worked for Dow in research, particularly as related to automotive products. He was working as a liaison to the auto industry when he and several colleagues formed Savant, Inc., an independent laboratory and research center for engine oils, transmission fluids, and other lubricants. Selby continues to work full-time with Savant. He and his wife live in Midland.

## MMTG and Midland Section Offer Summertime Fun at the Fair

*By Wendy Mathews*

**W**e're back! The Mid-Michigan Technician Group and the Midland Section ACS will be at the Midland County Fair, August 14 to 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Science demonstrations in the gazebo (near the Fair office and 4-H cafeteria) will include both table demonstrations and hands-on experiments. Tim Drier will be there with his glass-blowing expertise, and there will be giveaways and information on upcoming family events.

Professional Day will be ongoing during the same time period as the demonstration on Friday, August 15. Professional Day activities will be held in the picnic building north of the grandstands. The purpose of Professional Day is to show appreciation to our members and their families and provide information on ACS, along with

several of its affiliated groups, and their outreach to members and the public. There will be a reduced-price prime rib dinner at \$3.00 to members in the 4-H cafeteria. Sign up a new ACS member and your dinner is free! There will also be free food/fun passes for candy, popcorn, snow

cones, face painting, and pop along with \$10.00 ride bands from 1:00 p.m. to close. This year we have some additional free attractions such as a dunk tank and a race-car moonwalk.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy and participate in the science demonstrations, so invite your neighbors and friends and come to the fair! Professional Day is open to all members of the American Chemical Society, Mid-Michigan Technician Group, Division of Technicians, Young Chemists Committee, and Science Literacy groups and their families. Remember, events like these cannot happen without the support of members, so please take the time to show your support and come out and have fun with your fellow members. For more information or to volunteer, contact Wendy Mathews at [wemathews@dow.com](mailto:wemathews@dow.com) or 989-636-3934.



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## CEPA Presenting Three Symposia at New York Meeting

*From National ACS*

A Presidential Event on “Opportunities in the Bio and Pharma Areas” is among three career-related symposia to be presented by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs at the upcoming New York national meeting.

Biotechnology and pharmaceutical research are hot areas today in terms of drug discovery, fundamental research, and new business opportunities. These areas are projected to produce a large segment of the employment for chemists and chemical engineers in the future.

After introductory remarks by ACS President-elect Charles Casey, a group of well-known experts will provide an overview of the many opportunities in these areas. Among the topics of discussion will be new technology, innovation, and opportunities for growth. The symposium, to be held 8:30–12:00 p.m. on Monday September 8, is co-sponsored by BIOL, PROF, WCC, and YCC.

A second symposium, “Face-to-Face with Intellectual Property Protection and Commercialization Issues,” will explore a variety of vital issues surrounding intellectual property protection and transfer. Speakers will discuss topics ranging from patents to venture capital to establishing new businesses. The symposium will be held on Monday, 1:00–4:00 p.m., September 8. The primary sponsor is the Division of Chemistry and the Law. The co-sponsors are the Department of Career Services, Office of Graduate Education, the Division of Small Chemical Businesses, CEPA Committee on Professional Training, and the Committee on Education.

“The Need for ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, in the Chemical Process Industries,” to be held 1:30–4:10 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, fills out CEPA’s symposia line-up. This presentation will cover the current state of the workplace for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender workers. The legal environment at the federal, state, and local levels under which they operate will be discussed, as well as efforts to change those laws. The event is sponsored by the Division of Professional Relations and co-sponsored by CEPA, YCC, WCC, and CHAL.

For more information about the symposia, call DCS at 1 (800) 227-5558 x6208. For more information on the National Meeting, see [www.chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org) and click on the ACS National Meetings link.

*Careers for Chemists*

## Seeking a Different Career? Check Out the Science Librarian

*By Don Miller*

Shortly after I had been hired at my first job (several decades ago) as a control chemist at a small pharmaceutical company, some of the employees were having an informal discussion (non-work) around the lab coffee pot. One person commented that there really wasn't much that a chemist could do outside of the laboratory to make extra money at part-time work. A pharmacist could work extra hours at the local drug store, an architect or engineer could work extra hours drawing plans for buildings, tradespeople could work on houses, but what could a chemist do—not much. The old laboratory sage then commented, well, chemists could make their own soap and sell it.

That was 1950 and this is 2003. Needless to say, much has changed in 53 years. There are not only options for part-time and contract employment but opportunities for non-laboratory, full-time careers.

In a recent issue of the ACS publication *Chemistry* (Winter 2003), Becky Ham wrote an excellent article on the science librarian career. In the article, Kathy Longsberger, science librarian for Goodyear Corporate Research, states that, traditionally, science librarians were the people who held the keys to information, but now they are evolving from gatekeepers to guides. They not only assist researchers in carrying out literature and patent searches but also teach and aid them to use a myriad of new resources, e.g., computerized databases, search engines, etc.

The article also featured Jim Martin of the University of Arizona Science and Engineering Library, who spends much of his time testing, acquiring, and cataloging new media for the library. According to Martin, one of the biggest challenges for the librarian is to pick and choose which ones to buy since there are so many on the market. They are very expensive and can be tied to complicated licensing agreements.

But it is not all high tech work. Science librarians are still involved with hardcopy materials (books, journals, magazines, etc.). Some branch out into other areas, such as writing science articles for newspapers and/or magazines, desktop publishing, and digital photography.

Along with a science degree, many science librarians possess a master's degree in library science (MLS) although in some cases it may not be required if an applicant brings other skills to the job such as web design or database expertise. A chemist's training should fit in well with the science librarian's position since it includes physics, math, computer science, and sometimes biology along with physical, organic, inorganic, and



analytical chemistry.

Angela Buske is an information analyst at the technical library of The Dow Chemical Company who helps clients with the more difficult patent searches. Information analysts at Dow have access to text-mining tools that provide a visual representation of information in thousands of patents. According to Buske, the information analyst position at Dow is sometimes used as a pass-through position to other areas of the company, since it allows the person an overview of the entire corporate structure.

Buske says that chemical knowledge is essential to the information analyst's job. "The more that you know and understand about a scientist's work, the easier it is to provide him or her with the best resources," says Buske. "Many times, after a discussion, scientists find out that what they actually need to know is not what they originally wanted to know."

Other institutions that employ science librarians include universities, professional societies, museums, and science centers. Generally, annual salaries range from \$50,000 to \$60,000. So, if you like chemistry or any other science, but are more intrigued with handling information than manhandling labware, you may want to consider this career. Realize, though, that the job doesn't stop at the bookshelves and computer display. Unlike Marian, the librarian of Meredith Willson's play, "The Music Man," the modern science librarian should be people-oriented, friendly, and curious.



*Angela Buske*



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## **59<sup>th</sup> Annual FSM Features Green Chemistry**

*By Dale LeCaptain*

**T**he much anticipated and currently desired next generation of chemical production will use biologically based, renewable resources, known as “green” chemicals. This will be the topic of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Scientific Meeting of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The Midland Section is home of The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, and numerous other companies as well as Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Alma College, and Delta College. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dow Chemical’s Employee Development Center (EDC) on Abbott Rd. in Midland.

The meeting will begin with registration, lunch, the poster session featuring posters from local universities and companies (please note the call for posters on pg. 11). The exposition will be even bigger this year featuring various scientific vendors and professional societies. A formal welcome and awards presentation will lead into the keynote presentation by Dr. Richard Gross, professor at Polytechnic University in New York and recipient of the 2003 Presidential Green Chemistry Award. The remainder of the afternoon will offer the following presentations on green chemistry.

### **Renewable Materials**

- Larry Drzal, Michigan State University, “Plastics from Renewable Sources”
- Dave Henton, The Dow Chemical Company, “Polylactic Acid”
- Ramani Narayan, MSU, “Polymers from Lactic Acid Derivatives”
- Greg Baker, MSU, “Composites from Renewable Materials”

### **Green Processes**

- Greg Zeikus, MSU, “Electrochemical Enhancement of Fermentation Processes”
- John Nghiem, MBI International, “Ammonia Fiber Explosion for Treating Biomass”
- Tony Kinsbury, The Dow Chemical Company, “Polymer Recycling”
- Dennis Miller, MSU, “Reactive Distillation of Glycols from Sugar”

Workshops on career development and technical word processing will also be held. The afternoon will wrap up with a social, offering the opportunity to mingle with colleagues at a local establishment.

Please check out the website for all the details, including the latest information! Check back often for updates. [www.membership.acs.org/m/midl/fsm03/index.htm](http://www.membership.acs.org/m/midl/fsm03/index.htm).

*Call for Posters***2003 Fall Scientific Meeting**

ACS Midland Section  
 Friday, October 17, 2003  
 Employee Development Center  
 The Dow Chemical Company

**P**lease consider presenting a poster at the Fall Scientific Meeting. Abstracts are being accepted through September 18. All areas of chemistry and chemistry-related topics are invited. For more information, check the FSM web page [www.membership.acs.org/m/midl/fsm03/index.htm](http://www.membership.acs.org/m/midl/fsm03/index.htm).

**Abstract Format**

Each abstract should contain: title, author(s) and author(s) affiliations, and abstract body text. The format specifics:

- Single spacing with blank line between title and author *and* between author and abstract body text.
- Times New Roman typeface in 12-point (or comparable) type size.
- Submit as an e-mail attachment in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format.
- Please try to limit the abstract to 225 words.
- Underline the name of the presenting author (note, the e-mail address of the submitter will be the default contact person for all additional information)
- E-mail abstracts to [dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu](mailto:dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu)

Address questions to Dale LeCaptain, Department of Chemistry, Central Michigan University, 989-774-3993, [dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu](mailto:dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu).

We currently have booth space available for interested vendors, school clubs, businesses, etc. for this year's FSM exposition. Space is limited so don't delay. For further details and pricing information, please contact Wendy Flory at 989-636-5097 or [wcfloory@dow.com](mailto:wcfloory@dow.com).

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Call For Nominations

**2003 Midland Section Awards**

By Petar Dvornic

**I**t's time again to nominate deserving individuals for the 2003 Midland Section awards. The awards are described below.

***Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences***

Each year the Midland Section honors an individual residing within the Section's geographical area who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and promotion of the chemical sciences. This award recognizes dedication and service to the chemical profession. The recipient need not be an ACS member. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, list of pertinent publications, evidence of professional growth and involvement, and letters of support from colleagues. Previous recipients of this award are:

1976	Turner Alfrey, Jr.	1990	Joseph E. Dunbar
1977	Etcyl H. Blair	1991	Thomas H. Lane
1978	David C. Young	1992	Donald A. Tomalia
1979	Vernon A. Stenger	1993	Dale J. Meier
1980	Daniel R. Stull	1994	Philip T. Delassus
1981	Bob A. Howell	1995	Duane B. Priddy
1982	Wendell L. Dilling	1996	Hans G. Elias
1983	Donald R. Weyenberg	1997	Ludo K. Frevel
1984	Edwin P. Plueddemann	1998	Patrick B. Smith
1985	Raymond P. Boyer	1999	David E. Henton
1986	Stanley P. Klesney	2000	Steven J. Martin
1987	Warren B. Crummett	2001	Edwin C. Steiner
1988	A. Lee Smith	2002	Thomas J. Delia
1989	Do Ik Lee		

***Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society***

The Section sponsors an annual award to recognize outstanding service to the Midland Section of the ACS. This award recognizes achievement in the promotion of the goals of ACS. Nominees shall be members of the Midland Section. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, a history of service to the Midland Section, and supporting letters from fellow ACS members. Previous recipients are:

1989	David C. Young	1996	Fran K. Voci
1990	Linneaus C. Dorman	1997	Thomas H. Lane
1991	Donald R. Petersen	1998	Vicky S. Cobb
1992	Wendell L. Dilling	1999	Theodore E. Tabor

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1993	Bob A. Howell	2000	Peter and Patricia Dreyfuss
1994	Eldon L. Graham	2001	George W. Eastland, Jr.
1995	Gretchen S. Kohl	2002	Joan Sabourin

### ***Outstanding Chemical Technician***

The Section presents an annual Outstanding Chemical Technician Award to an individual who has demonstrated an extremely high degree of professionalism as a chemical technician. The ACS defines a chemical technician as a person whose training includes successful completion of a two-year, post-high school level chemistry curriculum leading to an Associates Degree, or the equivalent course work in a Baccalaureate program, or the equivalent knowledge gained by experience. The primary work of a chemical technician is conducting experimentation and/or correlating information to help solve chemical problems and/or discover new chemical knowledge. Criteria used to judge the award include job skills, safety, teamwork, leadership, publications and presentations, reliability, communication skills, and additional professional and community activities.

Nominees must have worked for five years as a chemical technician.

Chemical technicians do not need to be a TECH Division Affiliate or ACS member to be eligible for this award. Nominations should include a biographical sketch and supporting letters that address each of the criteria above. Previous recipients are:

1997	Connie J. Murphy	2000	Kurt A. Bell
1998	David Stickle	2001	Gordon R. Roof
1999	Ronald L. Good	2002	Cynthia J. Gould

Nominations for all three awards are invited. The deadline for receipt of nominations and all supporting materials is September 1, 2003. Nominations should be sent to:

Petar Dvornic  
Michigan Molecular Institute  
1910 W. St. Andrews Road  
Midland, MI 48640  
Fax (989-832-5560)

Electronic nominations are also welcome. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Petar at 989-832-5555 ext. 550 or [dvornic@mmi.org](mailto:dvornic@mmi.org). Nominators should provide their address and phone number in case the committee needs to contact them. The Awards Committee encourages all Section members to nominate deserving colleagues and appreciates your efforts in helping these individuals receive recognition for their efforts. We look forward to hearing from you!

Post Street Archives:

## The Life of a Chemical Company

By David Baker

The Post Street Archives is a treasure-trove of historical materials and documents of The Dow Chemical Company and the Dow family. Located in an old school building at 205 Post Street in Midland, the Archives offers a unique glimpse into the life of a major chemical company. I was fortunate enough to visit the Archives early in May on a rather auspicious occasion for Dow historian and Archives staff member Ned Brandt. His new book *Chairman of the Board: A Biography of Carl A. Gerstacker* had been published by Michigan State University Press, and he was holding a copy in his hand. Ned has been the company historian since 1983. His new book is one of many volumes housed at the Archives, from late 19<sup>th</sup> century chemical reference books to more recent historical works.



Ned Brandt, Dow historian and Archives staff member.

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation is the custodian of the Archives. The collections include over 30,000 photographic images. There are speeches and collections of former executives, including letters and notes. There are also key employee addresses and speeches on videotape. There are small mementos and sales promotions used by the Dow marketing department. There are even collections of old advertisements for Dow products from magazines and journals. According to Tawny Nelb, chief archivist, the collections total more than 400 linear ft. "We recently obtained permission to access a wealth of materials still stored at The Pines (the Dow homestead)," said Tawny. "This adds hundreds of photographs and documents to the collections." Tawny joined the staff of Post Street Archives last September after 10 years working with the archives of Yale University and the last 17 years as an independent consultant.

Recent years have brought special challenges to maintaining the collections at the Archives. The overwhelming volume of electronic communication and web pages that a company produces is difficult to track and keep current. Also, the increasing global perspective and constant updat-

ing of software and compatibility hinder the acquisition of relevant materials. Additionally, mergers and acquisitions, such as the recent merger with Union Carbide, open up whole new areas of historical interest.

The Archives is open to the public, and the staff encourages both casual visitors and researchers. Kathy Thomas, reference librarian and research coordinator, has helped with numerous projects since she joined the staff in 1994. Other staff members include Connie Good, archival manuscript processor, and Delores Goulet, archival photograph processor. The entire staff at the Archives is very knowledgeable and hospitable, and they are very enthusiastic about helping any visitor or researcher seeking historical information on Dow Chemical or the Dow family.

Post Street Archives is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling the office at 989-832-0870 or by e-mailing Kathy Thomas at [thomas@poststreetarchives.org](mailto:thomas@poststreetarchives.org).

*The Archives has many early advertisements and product information, such as this ad for Saran Wrap from 1957.*



*The Post Street Archives is housed in the Post Street School, which was built in 1876. Grace A. Dow, wife of company founder Herbert H. Dow, taught for one year at this school before their marriage.*

## **Technical Society Interface Committee Encourages Collaboration**

*By Eldon Graham*

**T**he purpose of the Midland Section ACS Technical Society Interface Committee is to promote cooperative activities and information exchange with other professional organizations in the area such as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Society of Plastic Engineers, Sigma Xi, etc.

A list of the current officers and contact persons for area technical societies with their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses has been prepared and is available to any Midland Section ACS member. If you desire a copy, contact Eldon Graham (989-964-4127 or [graham@svsu.edu](mailto:graham@svsu.edu)).

Other technical organizations often join with the ACS in activities such as Sci-Fest and National Chemistry Week activities. Also, this year, in cooperation with the Michigan Molecular Institute, a joint technical society dinner meeting was held on June 17, 2003. This meeting was jointly sponsored by the Society of Plastics Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and ACS. At this meeting, Prof. Matthew Tirrell of the College of Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, spoke on the subject of "Chemical Processing by Self-Assembly." Self-assembly processes occur frequently in biology, but translating that process into controllable chemical processing was the subject of his talk. Dr. Tirrell was the 2003 MMI Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor.

Dr. Tirrell also taught a short course at MMI on "Tailoring Material Surface Properties with Tethered Chains." Members of the local sections of SPE, ACS, and the AIChE could attend this course, as auditors, for no fee, because these technical societies are sponsors of the Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program.

The Midland Section of the ACS is a participating member of the Saginaw Valley Engineering Council (our ACS membership includes chemical engineers). This council has 18 participating organizations that share information about their activities and programs. Each year the Saginaw Valley Engineering Council has a banquet and program that officers and representatives of the participating organizations attend. This year the banquet was held on February 20, 2003, at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. It was attended by 150 persons. The speaker was John German of American Honda Motors who spoke on "Hybrid-Electric Vehicles." He discussed the Honda Insight and Honda Civic Hybrid as real-world examples of efficiency improvements possible with advanced technology hybrid-electric vehicles. The future of hybrid vehicles was discussed, including marketing advantages and concerns. The primary barrier to mass



market acceptance of hybrid-electric vehicles is cost, as a result of battery cost, and the periodic replacement presently required.

On exhibit at this dinner meeting was the SAE Formula Race Car designed and built by engineering students at Saginaw Valley State University. This car was entered in the Society of Automotive Engineers International Design and Performance Contest held in 2002. There were 140 entries from 10 different countries. The SVSU entry placed sixth in this world competition. The students were at the dinner meeting to explain the highlights of their award-winning design.

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## National ACS Announces Fall Candidates

*By Ann Birch*

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) has announced the slate of candidates that will appear on the fall 2003 ballot. They are:

### **For President-Elect, 2004**

William F. Carroll, Jr., Occidental Chemical Corporation  
Michael E. Strem, Strem Chemicals, Incorporated

### **For Directors-at-Large, 2004–2006**

Dennis Chamot, National Research Council  
Nancy B. Jackson, Sandia National Laboratory  
Peter C. Jurs, Pennsylvania State University  
James P. Shoffner, Columbia College

### **For Director District I, 2004–2006**

Ronald D. Archer, University of Massachusetts  
Anne T. O'Brien, Consultant  
Dorothy J. Phillips, Waters Corporation

### **For Director District V, 2004–2006**

Judith L. Benham, 3M Company  
E. Ann Nalley, Cameron University

For more information on the candidates and the election, see [www.chemistry.org/election](http://www.chemistry.org/election).

## **Volunteering: An Open Letter to Midland Section and Members**

*By John Blizzard*

*Editor's Note: This is the first part of a two-part article on volunteering by John Blizzard. John is retired from Dow Corning Corporation and has been an ACS member for 10 years. He is an active volunteer in the Science Literacy and other education programs of the Midland Section.*

**Y**ou volunteer for your church. You volunteer for “extra” on your job. Your spouse volunteers you for who knows what. It seems like at every corner someone or some organization wants your time despite the fact that there are still only 24 hours in any one day. And the Midland Section of the ACS is no exception. They too ask you to volunteer time for programs, offices, and projects. After all, this type of organization is able to exist because of people like you who do volunteer their time and money. So how do you sort out for whom or what you will volunteer? There are probably as many answers to this question as there are individuals.

Wendell Dilling sent out a questionnaire to all Midland Section ACS members a few years ago with the following results:

- 24% said they were too busy to participate in the Section activities
- 4% said they were unable to participate
- 22% were just not interested in Section activities
- 5% were interested in greater participation in the Section's activities.

These results aren't too surprising. After all, I don't know of anyone who is not busy. But what I'd like to do is give other chemists some type of rationale for volunteering. No, I'm not any kind of expert or consultant in the area. Maybe I'm just one of those people who can't seem to say “no.”

What I have done is break the topic down into two main areas: the responsibilities of the officers of an organization and the responsibilities of the volunteers. (*Note: the responsibilities of volunteers will be covered in the September issue of The Midland Chemist.*)

### **Responsibilities of Officers**

Before anyone would want to volunteer for any organization, be it a professional organization like ACS, or a church, political, or civic organization, the officers of that organization must fulfill a number of requirements for its volunteers.

First, the officers (or board) must provide the opportunities. The officers should not expect the prospective volunteers to “go out and find places to spend their time (and sometimes money).” Now, in the case of ACS, some of these opportunities may come from the national organiza-

tion. However, not all of the ideas, programs, or opportunities from a national organization will fit the needs and desires of the local volunteering group. This is where the local board needs to be selective and innovative to entice individuals to get involved with their organization. Where do the ideas come from? The membership. The local membership is the organization's greatest resource.

Second, these opportunities should be "real" opportunities. All too often programs are in place because "we have always had it" or "if we don't have this program we will not receive an award." I think that the worst disservice an organization can do to its members is to waste their time on programs that no one wants or needs. Now I know, "all" of the programs are necessary, wanted, and needed. If that is the case, it should not be difficult to obtain individuals to work on those programs. But remember, you can stretch your resources (money and people) only so far.

Third, programs must be funded. Although the chair of a committee or program should inform the local board of its funding requirements, it is the board's responsibility to obtain the *required* funding. Note the word "required." All too often, the chair of a program is not aware of what funding is required to operate a specific program and subsequently underestimates or overestimates the amount. Further, it is not unreasonable for the Board to require the chair to submit a budget, defend that budget, and report on the progress of the budget and program. If the volunteers are trying to obtain funds for their program themselves, they probably do not have enough time left to actually "do" the program or project.

Fourth, remember your people are volunteers, just as you are. A volunteer is defined as one who offers to enter into any service of his own free will. They do not have to be involved. Although volunteers normally are not looking for recognition, a quick note of thanks goes a long way. Also, the extent the officers are involved with its members is the extent the members will be involved with the organization. Although an article in the local newsletter is nice, the personal touch of attending a program's event says a lot more to the volunteer than just reading about it in a newsletter. It just demonstrates the board's level of commitment when a board member actually shows up to see and support the program.

Fifth, realize that you are in competition. Yes, competition, for the money and more importantly, the time, of your members. With jobs, family, homes, and just daily life pressures, volunteering will take a back seat to the necessities of life. In addition, there are any number of great organizations begging for people to volunteer their time for their "worthy cause." I guess the question the board needs to ask is: "Why should anyone volunteer their time for the organization?" If the board can't come up with substantial reasons, maybe they should reconsider what they are doing.

## Fall 2003 ACS Tour Speaker Announced

By Anton Jensen

**D**r. John J. Fortman, professor at Wright State University and ACS Tour Speaker, will present "America's Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers" at Central Michigan University. The presentation is scheduled for Monday, September 22, at 4:00 p.m. in the Dow Science Building, room 175. A reception is planned for 3:30 p.m. in room 264.

Anyone wishing to have dinner with Prof. Fortman at The Embers in Mt. Pleasant should contact Dr. Anton Jensen at 989-774-3125 or [anton.w.jensen@cmich.edu](mailto:anton.w.jensen@cmich.edu). RSVP by September 18. Dinner will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. Meals may be ordered from the menu at your own expense.



**Abstract:** Through the years, Prof. Fortman has collected and edited many misadventures that he and Ruben Battino experienced in doing demonstration shows that were videotaped live. Difficulties encountered in the studio preparation of a three-hour set of videotaped demonstrations were also saved. These will make up one part of these showings. Gil Haight gave permission to show portions of his Haightful Perils of Teaching, which are spectacular in spite of technical problems. A videotape of Hubert Alyea doing his Old Nassau demonstration will be shown along with some tapes of others such as Bassam Shakhshiri and Ron Perkins caught in live demonstrations that presented problems. Portions of demonstrations by the Weird Science group will also be shown.

**Biographical Sketch:** John Fortman is Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Wright State University where he retired in 2001 after 36 years of teaching freshman and inorganic chemistry. In 1998 he was appointed the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching and won seven different teaching awards over the years at Wright State. In 1998 he received the CMA Catalyst Award for Outstanding Teaching of College Chemistry. Dr. Fortman received his B.S. from the University of Dayton in 1961 and his Ph.D. in physical inorganic chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1965. He has published over 50 papers in chemical education in addition to his research publications. With Ruben Battino he has produced three sets of videotapes which contain over ten hours of chemical demonstrations for use at middle school through college levels. For over 25 years he has done chemistry demo outreach shows for middle and

high school students in the Dayton area and continues to inspire and fascinate over 7500 students each year with at least 15 shows. He has done workshops on teaching and demonstrations around the country. He has designed alternative courses for general chemistry, elementary chemistry and chemistry for elementary education majors. His course for non-science students was cited as a model in the 1990 AAAS report on "The Liberal Art of Science: Agenda for Action." His interests in addition to demonstrations and course content and organization include the use of analogies and videotaped material. John has been an ACS member since 1962 and is currently Councilor for the Dayton section and member of the Committee on Constitution & Bylaws after serving for five years on the Local Section Activities Committee. As an ACS Tour Speaker he has given over 200 talks over the past ten years, visiting 150 of the 189 different local sections and doing each of the 28 speaking tours at least once. He has presented in 49 of the 50 states.

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## In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

*By Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Historian*

- **30 Years Ago This Month**—In his chairman's column, Don Petersen noted the appointment of Richard McKellar as the new editor of *The Midland Chemist*. The retirement of Howard Potter after 27 years as chairman of Alma College's Department of Chemistry was reported.
- **20 Years Ago This Month**—David Watson noted that the Midland Section had been nominated for an Outstanding Section Award for 1982. Susan Butts reported on an informational program on dioxin held May 17, 1983, and sponsored by the local sections of ACS, AICChE, and Sigma Xi. About 600 people attended the program, which consisted of an introductory lecture, a panel discussion, and questions from the audience.
- **10 Years Ago This Month**—The ACS fair booth at the Midland County Fair, August 15-21, 1993, and a call for volunteers to present classroom chemical demonstrations during National Chemistry Week, November 7-13, 1993, were announced. Also announced was the selection of the Midland Section as the recipient, for a third year in a row, of the award for Outstanding Performance by Local Sections in the medium-large section category.

## Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

- Aug. 4      Deadline for September issue of *The Midland Chemist*.
- Aug. 11      Midland Section board meeting, Saginaw Valley State University, Rm. 226, Dow-Doan Science Bldg. East, 7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 14–15   Science Demonstrations, Midland County Fair, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 15      Professional Day, Midland County Fair, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 1      Deadline for nominations for fall awards.
- Sept. 8      Deadline for October issue of *The Midland Chemist*.
- Sept. 15      Midland Section board meeting, Delta College Midland Center, Rm. 12.
- Sept. 18      Deadline for Fall Scientific Meeting poster abstracts.
- Sept. 22      Prof. John Fortman, Wright State University, “America’s Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers” CMU Seminar Series and ACS Tour Speaker, Central Michigan University, Dow 175, 4:00 p.m., reception preceding in Dow 264 at 3:30 p.m. (Anton Jensen, 989-774-3125).

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