



Tom Lane, President of ACS, talks to Midland Section member Bob McKellar at the 2009 Midland Section Open House.



Dale Meier, Section board member, greets Open House attendee.

**Section Open House Offers Networking/
Information for Members, see pg. 3**

List of Section Leaders, see pp. 5–6.

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

Volume 46, Number 1
February 2009

In this Issue ...

From the Chair: Are You Striving for the Ideal?	1
From the Editor: Midland Section Planning To Improve	
Web Interaction, Efficiency	2
Members and Friends Attend 2009 Section Open House	3
Spring 2009 National Meeting & Exposition	4
Meet the 2009 Midland Section Leaders	5
Call for Nominations: 2009 Science Teaching and Education Volunteer Awards	7
ACS Scholars Program Accepting Applications	9
Mini-Grants Available for Collaborative Activities	10
Midland Section Partners with MCFTA on Earth Day 2009	10
From the President of ACS	11
2009 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS Announces Call for Papers ..	12
MMTG Wraps-Up 2008 with Gifts for Adopted Families	13
Students Shine During Project SEED 2008	16
Science Café Held by Midland Section and Local Organizations	18
Call for Nominations: 2010 National Chemical Technician Award	20
In Memoriam	21
Letters to the Editor	22
In Past Issues of <i>The Midland Chemist</i>	25
Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar	26

The Midland Chemist is published six times a year by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society.

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From the Chair

Are You Striving for the Ideal?

Welcome to my first letter to you as your new chair of our Midland Section! It will be an honor to contribute to the rich tradition of our Section, which dates back to 1919 when the founder of The Dow Chemical Company, H.H. Dow, formed this Section. There are many things that I could talk about: our effective outreach programs for the youth in our five-county area or the intellectual stimulation provided for chemists with our Fall Scientific Meeting.

I would rather talk about what I perceive who we could be. Imagine selecting from the greater community a group of chemists and chemical technicians who have a desire to promote the many aspects of what is good about being a chemist or a chemical technician. What do you think those ideal aspects would be? As I see it, ideally, the person would have a burning desire to learn more about all aspects of chemistry. The subject of chemistry is so beautiful when one realizes that all his eyes see, his hands touch, and his ears hear are created by the atoms and molecules around him. And this ideal person, who is blessed with this knowledge of science, chooses to share this knowledge with others. For he realizes that this beautiful knowledge was obtained because others chose to share their knowledge with them. Can you name your favorite teacher?

The ideal person would realize that it is important to give back what was given to her. She realizes that her success was not due solely to her own efforts but by the generous time and energy given to her by others. Can you name the person or persons who have helped you become successful?

I joined this Midland Section over a decade ago so that I can attempt to reach the unreachable goal of that ideal person in the field of chemistry.

Would you like to join me on this adventure ?



*Angelo Cassar,
Midland Section Chair*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angelo J. Cassar".

From the Editor

Midland Section Planning To Improve Web Interaction, Efficiency

By Ann Birch

Over the next six months, the Midland Section is planning to upgrade its web presence, including a Section domain name, updated web site, monthly e-mailed update newsletter to members, and online version of *The Midland Chemist*. Please be patient with us as we learn the new system and set-up the e-mails. You may get a number of communications to begin with, but we promise to not inundate you with e-mails on a regular basis!

If you do not have an e-mail address, we will not neglect you...we can still send *The Midland Chemist* as hardcopy. However, there are announcements that will be e-mail only, so having an e-mail address will be a real benefit. If you do have an e-mail address and did not receive the e-mailed announcements about the Open House, please contact Ann Birch, ann.birch@editech-mi.com. It's possible that National ACS either does not have your e-mail address or the one they have is incorrect. Keeping an e-mail list updated is a real challenge.

This move is being taken partly to do a better job of communicating with members and providing the information and services that you want. It is also being done to improve efficiency and reduce costs and paper usage.

More on this in the future....

Call for Volunteers

Program: Earth Day 2009; Theme "The Sky's the Limit"

Position/Job: Volunteers to conduct hands-on demos with kids of various ages. (All materials and instructions will be provided.)

Time/Date Needed: Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. for at least 2 hour shifts.

Location: Lobby and Garden Room at the Midland Center for the Arts.

Skills Needed: Willingness to spend a few hours out of your Saturday to bring science to life for kids.

Contact: Gretchen Kohl by April 14th, 989-496-8200;
gretchen.kohl@dowcorning.com,

Members and Friends Attend 2009 Section Open House

By Ann Birch

On January 19, the Midland Section gave its first annual Open House at the Midland Center for the Arts. The announcement first appeared in the December 2008 issue of *The Midland Chemist*, then additional announcements were sent to members for whom we have e-mail addresses who were encouraged to publicize the event to friends and colleagues.

One of the main objectives of the open house was to give the attendees a chance to meet the 2009 Board of Directors and committee chairs as well as Tom Lane, 2009 President of ACS and a member of the Midland Section. We also wanted to give attendees an overview of what the Section is doing and encourage their interest and involvement in Section activities. There were displays on new and longtime members, ACS activities and career programs, Mid-Michigan Technician Group activities, and Student Affiliate Group activities. The refreshments were great and the conversations lively!

Total attendance was approximately 63 (we may have missed a few walk-ins.) Attendance through registration totaled 38 people, including 8 nonmembers, with a number of people expressing an interest in membership and/or increased involvement in Section activities. Other attendees were board members or committee chairs. We were able to connect several attendees with special interests with like-minded



Displays describing Section activities prompted conversations between attendees.



Midland Section member Jim Malek, winner of the prize drawing, receives a gift certificate from Chair Angelo Cassar.

Section members, which is part of what ACS is all about.

All attendees who are not board members or committee chairs were encouraged to register for a gift certificate for a dinner for two at The Table restaurant in The H Hotel in Midland. We're happy to announce that the winner is Jim Malek. Jim has been an ACS member since 1976 and is retired from Dow Corning. Congratulations and good eating, Jim!

Special Note: Many thanks to our friends at the Midland Center for the Arts who graciously provided the facility, tables, and easels. Thanks particularly to Debbie Anderson of MCFTA for her ultra-competent help with coordinating Section activities at the Center.

Open House Committee Members: Ann Birch, Jung Kwon (John) Oh, Angelo Cassar, and Gretchen Kohl.

Spring 2009 National Meeting & Exposition

From National ACS



ACS
Chemistry for Life™

237th ACS National Meeting & Exposition
March 22-26, 2009
Salt Lake City, UT

Join us in Salt Lake City for a rich program of scientific papers on a variety of multidisciplinary topics, including thematic programming around nanoscience highlighted by a keynote and a plenary session. As always, the meeting will offer a wide array of networking opportunities, continuing education activities, and specialized student programs, as well as the ACS Career Fair and National Exposition, which has expanded hours on Sunday evening and Wednesday afternoon. For more information go to the ACS website www.acs.org > Meetings, > Spring Meeting link.

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Good Chemistry at Work

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Meet the 2009 Midland Section Leaders

By Ann Birch

Below and on the next page is contact information for the 2009 Board of Directors and committee chairs for the Midland Section. Please don't hesitate to contact a board member or committee chair with any questions you have or if you are interested in volunteering. There is always room for an additional committee member or volunteer. Get involved!

Board of Directors

Chair

Angelo Cassar* angelo.cassar@chartermi.net 631-7128

Chair-Elect

John Blizzard* jvbliz@chartermi.net 496-1434

Secretary

Michelle Cummings* michelle.cummings@dowcorning.com 496-4672

Treasurer

Janet Smith* janet.smith@dowcorning.com 496-6860

Past Chair

Dorie Yontz* dyontz@dow.com 636-2571

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Dale LeCaptain (11) lecap1dj@cmich.edu 774-3993

Chair, Committee on Nominations and Elections

Kevin Wier kevin.wier@dowcorning.com 496-4596

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Wendell Dilling (10) dilli1wl@cmich.edu 631-1621

Steve Keinath (10) keinath@mmi.org (x588) 832-5555

Dave Stickles* (10) dstick44@chartermi.net 496-3273

Jennifer Dingman (09) j.dingman@dowcorning.com 496-8290

Tina Leaym (09) tina.leaym@dowcorning.com 496-6001

Dale Meier (09) meier@mmi.org 631-0955

*Members of the Executive Committee

Committee Chairs for 2009

Committees on Internal Matters

Executive	Angelo Cassar	631-7128
Membership	Jung Kwon (John) Oh	638-4617
Long Range Planning	Dorie Yontz	636-2571
Nominations & Elections	Kevin Wier	496-4596
Corporate Agent	Mike Owen	631-7339
Historian	Wendell Dilling	631-1621
MMTG	Gerard Nowaczyk	496-3613

Committees on Communications

Publicity	Andrea Alexander	496-5822
<i>The Midland Chemist</i>	Ann Birch	832-7485
Government Affairs	Bob Howell	774-3582
Technical Society Interface	Eldon Graham	964-4127
Web Site	Ann Birch	832-7485

Committees on Member Assistance and Recognition

Careers & Prof. Relations	position open	
Awards	Brad Fahlman	774-1195
Younger Chemists	Todd Bryden	636-8667
	Yinzhong (Eugene) Guo	636-9841

Committees on Member Programs and Activities

Program	John Blizzard	496-1434
Fall Scientific Meeting	Susan Rhodes	496-5644

Committees on Public Education and Student Programs

Chemistry Olympiad	Janice Tomasik	774-3330
Kids and Chemistry	Lisa Thackery	496-4077
	Gina Malczewski	496-4158
Minority Affairs	Lin Dorman	631-0213
National Chemistry Week	Gretchen Kohl	631-7128
	Angelo Cassar	631-7128
Project Science Literacy	Mike Ferritto	496-3244
Project SEED	Estelle Lebeau	774-3116
Scholarship	Carol Keinath	832-8890
Science Promotions	Janet Smith**	496-6860
Sci-Fest	Dave Stickle	496-3273
	Joan Sabourin	686-9250

**This position is the responsibility of the current treasurer.

*Call for Nominations***2009 Science Teaching and Education
Volunteer Awards***By Brad Fahlman*

Each year the Midland Section of the ACS presents awards to recognize outstanding achievement in chemical science education. Nominations for the 2009 awards are invited. Awards are presented for Outstanding Achievement in the following areas:

- Elementary and Middle Level Science Education
- High School and College Chemistry Teaching
- Science Education Volunteer

Candidates for the teaching awards must be educators at schools in the five county geographical area of the Midland Section: Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties. The Science Education Volunteer of the Year award will be presented to an individual who makes a substantial contribution to science learning in the Midland Section through voluntary efforts. Recipients of all awards will be selected by the Awards Committee. Nominators should write a letter indicating the award and describing the attributes of the candidate. Supporting letters from students, colleagues, supervisors, and community leaders are strongly encouraged. The deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2009**. Electronic submissions are preferable. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, position, address, and phone number of the nominator. Award recipients as well as high school and college student award recipients and Chemistry Olympiad winners will be honored at the ACS Science Education and Awards Banquet in April 2009. (Please see the local ACS Section web site for updated awards information, <http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/>.) The Awards Committee greatly appreciates the efforts involved in nominating someone and thanks you for helping to recognize deserving educators in our section. See subsequent pages for lists of previous award recipients.

Parents: Does your child have a great science teacher? If so, consider nominating him/her and pass this flier along to that teacher's principal or section head.

Please submit nominations to:

Bradley D. Fahlman, Awards Committee Chair
Central Michigan University
Department of Chemistry, Dow Science 357
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: (989) 774-1195; Fax: (989) 774-3883
e-mail: fahlm1b@cmich.edu

Elementary Level Sci. Ed.

1992	Karen Ziemelis
1993	Lela Wade
1994	Constance A. Dullock
1995	Joan Klopocz
1996	Mark Hackbarth
1997	Denise Koppkeberger, Cheryl Ruthig
1998	Barbara McGivern
1999	John Clark
2000	Sue Burtch, Robin Harshman-Rogers, Vicki Richard, Clare Jorgensen
2001	Cathy Egerer, Amy Hindbaugh-Marr
2002	Maureen Becker
2003	Leon Katzinger
2004	Joan Roels
2005	Curt Moses
2006	Robin Allen
2007	Diane Huckins
2008	Rachel Pappas

Middle Level Sci. Ed.

Derrell Steffen
Laurie Hepinstall
JoAnn Kraut
not awarded
Barbara J. Bibbee
Gary J. Johnson
not awarded
not awarded
not awarded
not awarded
not awarded
Joel Mikusko
not awarded
Christine Brillhart
not awarded
Matthew Miller
John Hoving
Mark Koschmann

HS Chem. Teaching

1989	Robert Wallace
1990	Gary Ronk
1991	not awarded
1992	John Clark, Edna Konwinski
1993	Mary Irons
1994	Jo Ann Pelkki
1995	not awarded
1996	Sandra Schafer
1997	Mary Fredell
1998	Dale Ressler
1999	Robert Enszer
2000	Steven Kelly
2001	William Stokes
2002	Robert Hansen
2003	not awarded
2004	Doug Grezeszak
2005	Pamela Thompson
2006	Daniel Sealey
2007	not awarded
2008	not awarded

College Chem. Teaching

Joan Sabourin
Bob Howell
Robert Kohrman
Scott Hill
Ajit Sharma
Laura Vosejpk
George Eastland
Martin Spartz
Philip Squatrito
Thomas Delia
Steven Keinath
James Hutchison
Sandra Smith
Margaret Hill
Dale Meier
Katharine Blystone
Ronald Sharp
Arthur G. Smith
Cynthia N. Peck
not awarded

Science Education Volunteer of the Year

1992	Gregg Young	2001	Donald Petersen
1993	Peter Bonk	2002	Joan McMahon
1994	Peter Moehs	2003	Charles Roth
1995	Gretchen Kohl	2004	Jan Zanyk
1996	John Blizzard, R. Van Effen	2005	Eldon Graham
1997	Marvin Tegen	2006	Tom Chamberlin
1998	Carlton Beyer	2007	Teri Bickmore, Cal Goeders
1999	William Albe	2008	Tim Drier
2000	Karol Childs		

ACS Scholars Program Accepting Applications

From National ACS

We are pleased to announce that the American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is receiving applications for the 2009–2010 academic year. The ACS Scholars Program is currently in its fourteenth year of funding authorization by the Society’s Board of Directors.

The scholarship is designed to encourage the best and the brightest African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students to pursue undergraduate college degrees in the chemical sciences. To date the ACS has awarded over \$10.8 million in scholarships to more than 1990 deserving undergraduates and has an 80% retention rate.

The American Chemical Society Scholars Program will award approximately 100 scholarships to undergraduate students interested in four-year degrees in the chemical sciences; those interested in transferring from two-year colleges to four-year colleges to pursue chemical science degrees; and to two-year students intending to pursue degrees in chemical technology. High school seniors who will be entering college are also eligible. The scholarship is valued at up to \$2500 per academic year for freshmen, and up to \$3000 per academic year for sophomores, and up to \$5000 per academic year for juniors and seniors.

Our Web Site (www.acs.org/scholars) contains additional information about the program and provides access to our on-line application form as well as downloadable application documents. The application postmark deadline is March 1, 2009.

We would like to thank you in advance for sharing this program with your members and other interested groups. If you have any questions about the application process, please call 1-800-227-5558 (ext. 6250) or send an email to scholars@acs.org.

Mini-Grants Available for Collaborative Activities

From National ACS

Proposals are being sought for Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce mini-grants. Up to \$500 will be awarded to collaborative activities that support technician education and career development. Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce has three goals:

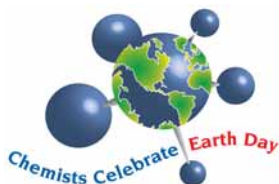
- Raise awareness of the changing needs of chemical technicians, operators, analysts, and other applied chemical professionals.
- Highlight opportunities for industry, academia, professional societies, and the community to collaborate on meeting those needs
- Increase involvement of applied chemical professionals in the American Chemical Society

To qualify for a mini-grant, one or more sectors of the chemical enterprise (industry, academia, professional organizations, etc.) must collaborate on the activity. Activities must also support one or more of the goals of Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce and take place in the 2009 calendar year. The deadline for proposals is 20 February 2009.

To learn more about Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce and the mini-grants, to get ideas for activities, or to gather information about the chemical technology profession in today's marketplace, please visit the Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce website (go to www.acs.org and follow the path, Funding & Awards > Grants > Chemical Technology Partnership).

Midland Section Partners with MCFTA on Earth Day 2009

By Gretchen Kohl



Midland Center for the Arts
Lobby and Garden Room
Saturday, April 18, 2009
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Free Event

The Midland Section is partnering with the Midland Center for the Arts to celebrate Earth Day 2009. This year's theme is "Air – The Sky Is the Limit." There will be themed activities and information for all ages, so come join us and bring the family!

From the President of ACS

By Tom Lane

Photo Credit: Peter Cutts Photography

Editor's Note: Tom Lane, a Midland Section member since 1974, began his term as president of the American Chemical Society in January 2009. E.C. Britton was the only other Midland Section member to be elected president of the Society—in 1952. Tom has graciously agreed to write a message to the Midland Section in each issue of The Midland Chemist this year.

I am proud to be a chemist—improving people's lives! I am equally proud to serve the American Chemical Society and I thank you for giving me that privilege.

The pace has been sonic and the rewards enormous as I transition into my year as president. It has been a real pleasure to meet so many of our members; to listen to their dreams, concerns, or dilemmas. It is reassuring to know that our membership remains committed to and involved in the American Chemical Society. However, we have work to do. Our total membership numbers have slipped below 160,000 and the current economy and employment outlook could further impact our membership. As the potential for lay-offs increase in the chemical sector I hope that chemists will look to their professional society for support, training, and networking. For members who have lost their jobs in this recession, your dues may be waived for up to two years while you look for a new position. National meeting registration is free and you can interview with potential employers at the ACS Career Fair. Regional meeting registration is reduced to just \$25! There are similar or special reductions for ACS Harvard Courses, Leadership Development, Short Courses, and Prospectives. The Society offers career consultants (free) for members. Find more information at www.acs.org/careers. Don't forget to join the ACS Member Network at www.acs.org/membernetwork!

I would like to ask you to join me in focusing some of our collective energy to rebuild the membership of the Society. I would like to ask the Midland Section to set a membership goal—an aggressive goal to increase the Section's membership by 5% by the end of 2009. Experiment with new approaches, share your results, and grow! New people mean new opportunities for the Section. Learn more about membership benefits at www.acs.org and click on the membership and network tab.

Please feel free to contact me via Facebook or email (president@acs.org or tom.lane@dowcorning.com).



2009 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS Announces Call for Papers

From National ACS

The Cleveland Section of the American Chemical Society invites you to the 2009 Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, CERMACS 2009, at the historic Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, May 20–23, 2009. This event is being co-sponsored by the Electrochemical Society, the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, the American Vacuum Society, the Yeager Center for Electrochemical Sciences, and Case Western Reserve University. Abstracts will be accepted from **January 17, 2009** through **March 16, 2009**.

The theme for CERMACS 2009 is “Meeting Energy & Environmental Challenges Through Functional Materials.” In addition to the traditional symposia on Analytical, Inorganic, Organic, and Physical Chemistry, the meeting organizers are planning several other symposia.

CERMACS 2009 is pleased to announce three keynote speakers for the technical program, Professor Charles M. Lieber of Harvard University, Professor Daniel G. Nocera of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. Linda Abraham-Silver of the Great Lakes Science Center. The Cleveland Section will continue four decades of tradition by presenting the Morley Medal for 2009 at the Morley Award Symposium. The Morley Medal recognizes significant contributions to chemistry through achievements in research, teaching, engineering, research administration and public service, outstanding service to humanity or to industrial progress. Workshops and short courses are planned. The undergraduate program will include an undergraduate research poster session as well as networking opportunities. Contact information for symposia chairs and details regarding this event can be found at the CERMACS 2009 website, www.cermacs2009.org.

In addition to the technical program, CERMACS 2009 will include an opening mixer and an awards banquet.



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

MMTG Wraps-Up 2008 with Gifts for Adopted Families

*By Dana Fuerst, 2009 MMTG Past Chair
and Gerard Nowaczyk, 2009 MMTG Chair*

In the whirlwind of events that ended 2008, MMTG managed to complete some very important events and give a little to our members. Just before the holiday season, MMTG held an audio lunch-time seminar entitled “Creating Balance & Letting Go of Stress.” The event was attended by 24 people. Lunch was catered by Subway and we had a delicious Halle Berry salad from Café American.



MMTG members attend an audio seminar.

Attendees learned that by defining your life priorities, you can reduce stress by knowing what activities are in line with your plan. The seminar also covered over-stress health problems and how stress *is* contagious! By owning your attitude and using relaxation techniques, burnout from stress can be prevented. Because the seminar was an audio seminar, the CD is available for checkout. Simply contact Gerard Nowaczyk at gerard.s.nowaczyk@dowcorning.com to add your name to the list.

On December 9, despite ice and blowing snow, 28 members ventured out to the Dow Corning Auburn Site to attend the Annual Member Appreciation/Meet the 2009 Board Year End Lunch. For a change of pace, a traditional holiday meal was catered by Krzysiak’s Family Restaurant. A special thanks to Jeff Seifferly for providing the holiday tunes as background music. After eating as much food as we could, we were able to formally thank our 2008 Board members with plaques and a small gift of appreciation.

We awarded Shelli Thurston with the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award for all of her efforts throughout the year. Not only was Shelli able to organize our membership list and keep track of the dues being collected from our 110 members, but she was a huge help with the membership drives (more commonly known as “The Beer” events) and volunteered at various other events throughout the year. She was even able to convince

two of her kids to help perform science demonstrations at Sci-Fest 2008!

We also gave some recognition to our Webmaster, Dave Stickles, for all his help updating the website over the years. Early in 2008, a call for volunteers to help redesign the website was sent out.



Thanks to the creativity of Dave, Debbie Bailey, Mary Williams and Amy Tesolin-Gee, the website is beginning to take on a whole new look! If you haven't seen it in a while, we encourage you to check it out at <http://membership.acs.org/tag/default.htm>

For those who completed the MMTG Year End Report Membership Survey, thank you! Your input was very helpful for completing the year end report, and the feedback given on 2008 events will be used for the 2009 event planning. As it turns out, Dave Stickles was on a lucky streak on December 9. Dave ended up being the winner of the \$50 Visa Gift Card drawing for those members completing the survey and attending the Year End Lunch! Ron Johnson was the lucky winner of the \$25 Visa Gift Card drawing for those completing the survey but who were unable to attend the Year End Lunch. Hopefully the winners' good luck carries over to 2009!

To end the year on a giving note, MMTG members, their co-workers, members of Dow's Midland Research & Development Technologist Group (MRDTG), and members of Dow Corning's Technician Network all gave money to help adopt local families in need. Over \$735 was raised this year and we were able to adopt not just one but *three* families! We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated for this cause. Also, thank you to all of the people who volunteered to help with the event. Without everyone's donations of money and time, eight people in Midland County could have experienced a hard Christmas. With your help, we were able to give them a ray of hope in a very tough time.

In December, we announced the results of our annual Board election. Thank you to everyone who voted and everyone who ran for an elected position. The 2009 MMTG Board is listed below. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have questions or ideas for programming for 2009.

Chair	Gerard Nowaczyk	gerard.s.nowaczyk@dowcorning.com
Chair Elect	Shellene Thurston	s.thurston@dowcorning.com
Past Chair	Dana Fuerst	dfuerst@dow.com
Secretary	Diana Deese	diana.deese@dowcorning.com
Treasurer	Karin Syverud	ksyverud@dow.com
Elected Delegate	Hobart Barker	habarker@dow.com
	Juline Brown	jbrown7@dow.com
Elected Director	Deb Mendrick	dmendrick@dow.com
	Beth Witucki	beth.witucki@dowcorning.com
	Cassandra Hale	cassandra.hale@dowcorning.com
	Dave Stickles	dstick44@chartermi.net

Well, 2009 will be a very challenging year for all of us and MMTG wants to hit the ground running in the New Year. We will lead off with a lunch-time talk by Dr. Tom Lane, President of National ACS. This event will be held at the Midland Center for the Arts on Thursday, February 5. Dr. Lane will be discussing issues that are relevant to technicians in today's workforce. RSVPs are now being accepted by Gerard Nowaczyk at gerard.s.nowaczyk@dowcorning.com and Debbie Bailey at d.k.bailey@dowcorning.com.

Some of the many events we are organizing this year as part of our focus on education and collaboration will be:

- Vendor sponsored lunch-n-learn seminars
- Leadership training
- Career development
- Motivational speakers who will present topics on engaging our youth to increase their interest in chemistry and the sciences

We are also planning several membership drive activities, as well as events to promote camaraderie among our current membership body. Also we are hoping to have summer social events that would include our members' families.

Special Note: As the new MMTG Chair for 2009 I wish to extend the invitation from our entire board to all area groups that we would like to co-sponsor, assist, or co-design opportunities to ensure the value of membership is truly a meaningful commodity, particularly in these tough economic times. I look forward to working with our other outstanding local groups and hope we can get together real soon. Please feel to contact me further at gerard.s.nowaczyk@dowcorning.com or (989) 496-3613.

Students Shine During Project SEED 2008

By Estelle Lebeau

Tabitha Stauffer and Angela Cluley were selected to participate in the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Project SEED Summer I program, which lasted from June through August last year. One intent of Project SEED is to provide students with the opportunity to do meaningful research in a chemistry-related discipline. Another important feature is its



Tabitha Stauffer, working last summer in a Dow Corning lab.

emphasis on career development and its motivation of students to pursue higher education in the natural sciences, including chemistry and chemistry-related fields.

Tabitha Stauffer, a senior from Bullock Creek High School, worked with Frances Fournier at the Dow Corning Corporation in Midland on a project involving the screening of novel siloxane materials for their application in coatings. Tim McGuire, a chemistry teacher at Bullock Creek High School, recommended Stauffer as a student with a strong interest in chemistry who would benefit from the Project SEED experience and mentoring. Tabitha states that she enjoyed her experience, learned a lot, and wants to continue with this or another project through the SEED II program this summer.

Angela Cluley, a senior at Saint Louis High School, was selected to do chemical research in the Chemistry Department at Central Michigan University last summer. She worked under the direction of Dr. Anja Mueller who is investigating heavy metal ion removal from wastewater by imprinted polymers. Cluley was nominated to do research with Project SEED by Sarah Beery, chemistry teacher at St. Louis High School. Kevin Stedman, guidance counselor at the high school, helped to coordinate the selection process. Angela has aspirations of going to college to pursue a pre-professional degree that involves both biological and chemical sciences.

According to Dr. Mueller, "It was a great experience for all of us. An-

gela had her own research project, as each of my students does. She worked closely with me and with undergraduate and graduate students in my laboratory. In just this past summer Angela learned how to synthesize polymers, purify them, and characterize their structure. She also determined how effective the polymers are in removing arsenic ions from water. She even presented her results at the Midland ACS meeting. Angela was curious about everything; she learned chemistry (and other sciences) much beyond anything that can be offered in high school by constantly asking questions to anybody who happened to be in the laboratory. It is a pity that she was not able to continue her research project during the school year, we all would have loved to see her continue.”

Mentors are central to the success of Project SEED since they work most closely with the students and determine the quality of their scientific experience. Frances Fournier has served as a mentor to Project SEED students for a number of years, but this was Dr. Mueller’s first year as a mentor. Although ACS provides no monetary compensation for the researchers who work with SEED students, both mentors feel the program is worth the extra effort.

The American Chemical Society’s Project SEED Summer I program provided a \$2,500 fellowship to economically disadvantaged students to participate in summer research programs at academic, government, and industrial laboratories. Dr. Estelle Lebeau, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Central Michigan University, coordinates the Project SEED program locally and was awarded a grant to support these students. Matching financial support for the Project SEED program was provided last summer by the local Midland Section of the American Chemical Society.

The Midland Section of the ACS has a long history of supporting the Project SEED program. “We began supporting the program in 1978 and had two students that year. The program has been tremendously successful over the years with more than 85% of the SEED students attending college and greater than 60% of those majoring in chemistry-related areas,” says Bob Howell, councilor and board member of the Midland Section. The Midland Section of the ACS is considering expanding the number of students it supports in future years.

The ACS has raised the stipend to \$3,000 for SEED I and \$3,500 for SEED II students for the upcoming year. Our Section hopes to host both Angela and Tabitha as SEED II students and an additional three new SEED I students on various projects in laboratories located throughout our Section. Thank you for your support. It is clear that these students benefit tremendously from the experience.

Science Café Held by Midland Section and Local Organizations

By Dorie Yontz

The Midland Section held a Science Café, “Chemistry, Food, and You,” on Saturday, November 22, in partnership with the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library (the public library of Midland, MI), Girl Scouts, and Lactation Management Services. The event, advertised through the library’s newsletter, the city TV



channel, and the community access TV channel, was held for two hours in the Cup & Chaucer Café in the public library. Posters at the library entrance directed library patrons to the café and served as additional advertisement. Activity stations available throughout the event included *Nova Science Now* DVD featuring “Lab Meat?”, an episode about progress in making synthetic meat, and an information booth, featuring a poster titled “The Chemistry of Breast Milk,” which compared the chemical composition of breast milk and baby formula. Photocopies of the *C&EN* article about breast milk from the September 29, 2008, issue were available for attendees. Sue Clark, a certified lactation consultant from Lactation Management Services, one of our partners for the Science Café, staffed this booth and was available for discussions. The library, another of our partners, created a display of cookbooks from the library’s book stock.

ACS assembled a series of food-related demos and the Girl Scouts, another of our partners, made posters for each station and conducted the demos, which ran concurrently throughout the entire event. Some of the demos we featured included:

- Density column with Karo syrup, glycerin, Dawn dishwashing liquid, water, vegetable oil, rubbing alcohol
- Brown fruit: showed how orange juice and vinegar slow the brown discoloration in bananas
- Cereal/iron: demonstrated how the iron flakes can be separated from cereal with a magnet
- Chromatography: replaced the standard vis-à-vis pens with food color

pens and replaced filter paper with coffee filters to match the food-related theme. The dyes in the pens separated into constituent colors as water wicked the dye through the coffee filter.

Free coffee and snacks were available for volunteers and attendees throughout the day. The booths experienced a steady stream of visitors over the two-hour period. We estimate attendance of ~50 to 75 people.



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Call for Nominations

2010 National Chemical Technician Award

From National ACS

The ACS Division of Chemical Technicians is announcing the call for nominations for the 2010 National Chemical Technician Award.

The Award: The 2010 National Chemical Technician Award (NCTA) will be presented to a chemical technician demonstrating an extremely high degree of professionalism. The award will consist of a trip for the winner and a guest to the Spring American Chemical Society National Meeting; March 21–25, 2010, San Francisco, CA. Additionally, the awardee will receive a \$1000.00 honorarium and a dinner will be held in their honor in San Francisco.

Qualifications: The nominee must be currently employed as a chemical technician and must have worked as a chemical technician for a minimum of five years. Nominees do not need to be an ACS member. 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 Associate 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, applying specialized skills and knowledge in a scientific setting to take theory and put it into practice.

Criteria: Candidates will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Technical achievements (worth 60%)

Other (Considered together to make up the remaining 40%)

Leadership/mentoring (1–15%)

Communications/publications (1–5%)

Contributions to quality, safety, and other initiatives (1–5%)

Awards (1–5%)

Professional and community activities (ACS, AIChE, etc.) (1–10%)

Submissions: Nomination packets must be received by Ken Burchett (contact information below) no later than September 30, 2009. Nominations, including seconding letters, must not exceed six pages. Nominating letters should address the above criteria. A complete work address, phone number, and e-mail must be provided for the nominee and the nominator.

If you need further information, contact Ken Burchett, (423) 229-8357; wburchett@eastman.com. This award is administered by the Division of Chemical Technicians of the American Chemical Society. TECH sincerely thanks Dr. Tom Lane, the 2009 American Chemical Society president, and Dow Corning Corporation for sponsorship of this award.

In Memoriam

Adapted with permission from the Midland Daily News

George K. Greminger, Jr.



George King Greminger Jr., 92, of Midland, died on December 2, 2008. He was born in Syracuse, New York, on February 4, 1916, the son of George K. and Margaret (Coles) Greminger. He attended Nottingham High School, graduating as salutatorian. He received a B.S. degree in pulp and paper science from the New York College of Forestry at Syracuse University. Additional study included organic chemistry at Michigan State University and language courses in French at Delta College and German at Michigan State University.

George came to Midland in July of 1938 to work for The Dow Chemical Company. Most of his career at Dow was in the field of cellulose ether polymers. During World War II, he spent four and a half years in silicone polymer production, doing work for the United States Navy prior to the formation of Dow Corning. George spent two years in Europe in the Zurich area as part of a team establishing a technical service and development laboratory for Dow Europe. This was followed by two years in Latin America on a similar project. Besides giving his technical talks for Dow in English, he also gave them in French and Spanish. George joined ACS and the Midland Section in 1953.

George married Caroline E. North on April 11, 1946. She predeceased him in 1978. He later married Nancy C. (Weers) Sian in 1985. Surviving besides his wife, Nancy, are his four children and four stepchildren as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

George spent a lifetime of service to youth. He was a member of the Boy Scouts of America for 78 years. He received the Silver Beaver Award from the local council in 1952. He also received the Celtic Cross Award from the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters and the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Midland in October of 2002. During the eight years prior to George's second marriage, he was bachelor foster parent to 16 different troubled youth from broken homes, drug abuse programs and some who had spent time in jail.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's Note: Opinions expressed in letters to the editor reflect the view of the contributor(s) and should not be taken to reflect the views of the Midland Section, other Midland Section members, or the Midland Section Board of Directors.

Members Take Issue with C&EN Dioxin Story

This letter is similar to one we sent to the editor of *Chem. Eng. News*. We want the members of the Midland Section to be aware of the opinion of the authors.

This letter is being sent to you (the editor of *Chem. Eng. News*) regarding the cover story "Dow's Dioxins" (Aug. 11, 2008). We, as board members of the local ACS section (Midland, MI), felt that the article and accompanying photographs were misleading and lacked context.

The cover photo and opening editorial suggest that the Saginaw Valley region is a contaminated wasteland but we disagree. Further, we are disappointed that there was no mention of a recent University of Michigan study which showed that there was little correlation between dioxin levels in soil and/or household dust and levels found in human blood. Additionally, they found that there was no correlation between eating wild game and dioxin levels in blood. While eating contaminated fish did contribute to dioxin blood levels, the most important factor was age, regardless of where the person lived.

We are concerned that *C&EN* chose not to contact the Midland Section for additional perspective on this important story. The Midland Section is a highly regarded section (12 Outstanding Local Section Awards in the last 18 years), with many active members who come from industrial, academic, and consulting backgrounds, including working and retired chemists. Indeed, there are members of the Section who are experts in toxicology, EH&S, and the compounds in question.

Although our region is dealing with historical contamination from a variety of potential sources, it is a vibrant region that is home to hundreds of chemists and engineers. We hope that future articles consider consulting the rich membership of the Society to bring balance and perspective to a complex topic with many views.

Angelo Cassar Wendell Dilling

Eldon Graham Dave Stickles

December 15, 2008

Should Section Consider New Voting Procedure?

This letter is intended to show how the outcome of the 2008 Midland Section election for councilor could have been different if an alternate voting procedure had been used. This letter is not a criticism of any candidate and does not imply that I think the election should have produced a different winner; rather it is intended to explain a problem with our current voting procedure, a problem that has also arisen in several previous regional and national ACS elections (*C&EN*, 3-29-04, p 4).

The actual vote tallies in this election were as follows:

Candidate A	108	(47%)
Candidate B	62	(27%)
Candidate C	59	(26%)

As sometimes happens when there are more than two candidates, the winning candidate was chosen by less than one-half of the voters; e.g., 53% of the voters voted for candidates other than candidate **A**. However, candidate **A** won the election because our bylaws state that the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes wins the election.

If we want the winning candidate to be elected by a majority (>50%) rather than a minority of the voters, we need a different voting procedure. A simple method exists to accomplish this, namely a process called multiple-choice election, or instant run-off, which is now used in elections for ACS president-elect and directors when one winner is to be elected from three or more candidates.

For example, if a multiple-choice voting procedure had been used for this recent election, we could have voted for both our first and second choice candidates, and members who voted for candidate **C**, which is the candidate that would have been eliminated in the first round, could have had their second-choice votes counted for candidates **A** or **B**. This procedure would have produced one candidate with a majority of votes, unless a tie resulted, and every voter would have had a voice in selecting the winner. Those who voted for candidate **C** in this election had no voice in determining whether candidate **A** or **B** was the winner. Of the 59 voters who selected candidate **C** as their first choice, if 47 more voters had chosen candidate **B** than chose candidate **A** as their second choice, candidate **B** would have been elected.

The above vote distribution is similar to those resulting from two 3-way elections held in the early 1970s that led to a change in the national ACS bylaws from election by plurality to an instant run-off procedure (*C&EN*, 12-17-73, p 26). In the early 1970s a significant debate occurred within the ACS between members who wanted the ACS to be solely a scientific society and those who favored professionalism. Alan Nixon won as

president-elect in the 1971 election with 48% of the vote with the following vote tallies (data from ACS national office, 1999):

Alan C. Nixon	21,287	(48%)
George S. Hammond	12,608	(28%)
William A. Mosher	10,412	(24%)

In his President's Message (*C&EN*, 1-1-73, p 1) Nixon said, "I believe the Society should be more than a great scientific society. It should also be a professional society dedicated to promoting professional welfare of its members – adequate salaries, portable pensions, protection against arbitrary actions on the part of employers – whether through unwarranted dismissals, unexplained lay-offs or premature retirements – and a greater opportunity to participate in the fruits of their labors."

Both Alan Nixon and Bernard Friedman, ACS president-elect in 1973, whose views were similar to those of Nixon, were petition candidates when they ran for ACS president-elect. The vote tallies for the 1972 election were as follows (*C&EN*, 3-12-73, p 33):

Bernard S. Friedman	17,166	(45%)
Milton Harris	10,725	(28%)
Henry A. Hill	10,332	(27%)

In the 1971 election, Hammond and Mosher were the candidates selected by the Council Committee on Nominations and Elections and the Council. Prior to the election, Arthur Adamson wrote a letter to the editor of *C&EN* (10-4-71, p 7) stating "... Dr. Nixon's background and advocacies tend to place him in contrast to both of the Council nominees and the vote should therefore tend to split: Nixon vs. Hammond or Mosher. This is what happened last year, when the same maneuver was employed. It was nearly successful then; there was a three-way split and Nixon came close to being elected by a number of votes representing only about 10% of the membership."

Similarly, following the 1972 election, John Jackson, in a letter to the editor of *C&EN* (1-29-73, p 23) stated, "The past two ACS elections for president-elect have matched one candidate representing the new professionalism against two old-line candidates with views rather similar [to each other's]. Whether one considers the predictable results good or bad, they do not appear to represent a fair contest." As a result of the 1971 and 1972 national elections the Council changed the bylaws to require election by majority, using the instant run-off method to achieve this outcome.

We rarely have more than two candidates for a single position in the Midland Section, but if this becomes more frequent, we should amend our bylaws to avoid the election of candidates by a minority of the voters.

—Wendell L. Dilling

November 24, 2008

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

By Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Historian

- **40 Years Ago This Month**—In *The Chairman's Column*, by K.L. Burgess: “Years ago I attended my first A.C.S. meeting in Midland after a rather harrowing ride from Alma over snow and ice covered roads. Dr. Howard Potter was driver of the car and as Head of the Department of Chemistry at Alma College, he felt his students should be exposed to some of the benefits of regular attendance at the A.C.S. meetings. Through the years Dr. Potter has continued his philosophy and has frequently driven from Alma when many Midlanders felt the conditions were too severe to drive two or three miles to the 47 Building.”
- **30 Years Ago This Month**—In *Remarks by Honorable Steven D. Jellinek, “TSCA Two Years After: Taking Stock”*: “Earlier in my remarks this morning, I mentioned that the road ahead is not going to be any easier for chemists than it is for chemical regulators. Together, we still have a lot of problems to address, a few of which I have laid out for you today. I say “we” because you and the industry you work in carry a significant portion of the burden for making sure that the worst-possible-case predictions made about TSCA a few years ago never come true. I have not forgotten Dow’s claim back in 1975 that TSCA—at that time Senate Bill 775—would “grant near-dictatorial powers to the EPA Administrator.” I remember the estimates that TSCA would cost the chemical industry some \$2 billion dollars a year and the loss of thousands of jobs. This has not happened, and I pledge to you that as far as EPA is concerned it will not happen in the months and years ahead.”
- **20 Years Ago This Month**—In *The Value of Professional Societies* by A. Lee Smith: “At the recent ACS Fall Scientific Meeting in Midland I was surprised to see how many chemists are NOT members of the ACS. This society is a primary one for chemists, and it is difficult for me to see how one can be a chemist without being a member. But in addition to being a member, it is good to be an *active* member. I’d like to compliment those readers who are active in professional and scientific societies, and encourage those who are not to become more active.”
- **10 Years Ago This Month**—In *From the Chair* by Deb Bergstrom: “My first comments, as acting Chair of the Midland Section, must be to call upon us all to pay tribute to our long time friend and colleague, Dr. Donald Weyenberg, who has just recently passed away. Those of us who knew Don, knew him as a strong, active supporter and advocate for science and technology in both his professional role at Dow Corning and in the ACS. This is a great loss to us all and we will greatly miss him.”

Important Dates on the ACS Midland Section Calendar

Go to the website calendar for more details on the events below: <http://membership.acs.org/m/midl/calendar.htm>

- Feb. 16 Midland Section board meeting, MCFTA, Board Room, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16 ACS Tour Speaker, John J. Fortman; Wright State University; "Humorous Chemistry on Popular TV Shows," CMU Dow 175; 4:00 p.m.; contact: John Blizzard; jvbliz@chartermi.net; (989) 496-4672
- Mar. 9 Deadline for April issue of *The Midland Chemist*
- Mar. 16 Midland Section board meeting, MCFTA, Board Room, 7:00 p.m.

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