

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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Chair Column

Michelle Cummings, Chair, Midland Section ACS



“We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden,” Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe. I hope the holiday season gave you all a chance to renew and rejuvenate. Now, let’s look at some new changes that are happening in your local ACS section.

I would like to welcome the newly elected Midland Section ACS Board members and committee chairs. We kicked off the 2014 year on January 6 at the Midland Center for the Arts with a board meeting. This year we are trying a new meeting format for committee updates. Once a quarter, there will be a social followed by dinner and committee updates at a local restaurant or facility. This is an excellent opportunity for all of our members to learn what our local section is doing locally, nationally, and internationally. Please consider joining us. The first session following this format will be on March 3 with details on the venue and time to come within the next month. Keep an eye out!

There are several technical programming committees as well as public outreach committees. We, the Midland Section, are nationally recognized for our breadth and depth of impact on our members and community. There are some exciting new initiatives that I would like to highlight.

In 2013 we were awarded a National ACS Innovative Program Grant to assist the teachers in our area in their understanding and implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards focus on the approach to learning, focusing on critical thinking and creativity. Although these standards are not yet required by the State of Michigan, they are expected to be adopted in the next few years. The Midland Section ACS is viewed as an integral player in helping our area community schools with this program.

Another new program added to our local section is the Women Chemists Committee. This committee is focused on coordinating activities and opportunities across a wide range of areas including outreach, career development, and networking for women chemists.

Lastly, the Midland Section is embarking on a pilot program with the international organization, Chemists Without Borders. The project consists of developing and validating a test protocol for arsenic in water to be used by high school students in Bangladesh. This is an opportunity to draw on our Local Section's experience with arsenic testing in water from a watershed project in previous years, as well as our strong connection with our local area's high schools to run reproducibility trials.

I am looking forward to a great 2014 with you!

Midland Section ACS Sponsored Programs on MCTV

Gina Malczewski, Secretary

Two recent Midland Section ACS sponsored programs were recorded by Midland Community Television Network (MCTV) and are available for viewing on television, or via playback using Windows Media Player. Airtime schedules and access to the videos can be obtained by searching for the names of the programs at <http://www.midland-mi.org/mctv/channel99.htm>.

The November 22, 2013 program with master glass blower Tim Drier called, "Mastering the Molten: All about Glass Blowing" (Show ID 6892), and the November 19, 2013 program, "Loco for Cocoa: The Chemistry of Chocolate" (Show ID 6930), with chef Aaron Gaertner and Gina Malczewski, are currently being shown.

Outreach Activities Off to a Quick Start

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee

It's a new year for outreach! We started with a program at Plymouth Elementary School in Midland on January 7, and we're off and running and always looking for volunteers! If you are interested in knowing more about what we do, or how to get involved, or if you know of a specific teacher or school program need, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.

Our group engaged with the community at the Kid's Day at the Midland Mall event on January 18, and we'll be doing another Diet Coke and Mentos reactions demo at Midland High School as part of a lesson on "Experimental Design" on January 28. All Saints in Bay City will also be getting another "Energy" program from our team before the end of January. A "Cosmetic Science" program is being scheduled for February – more on that next time.

Looking ahead, we are working on new hands-on activities under a teacher training grant we received from the National ACS related to the Next Generation Science Standards. We will be doing a workshop in the fall and testing out the activities in local classrooms, so if you know of a willing teacher who would like to be a guinea pig to help us test the program, contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.

Again, please contact us if you have energy, time, and ideas to spare. This year promises (as usual) to be a very busy year. Thank you!

Saginaw Spirit Hockey Game, February 8
Dale LeCaptain, CMU ACS Student Member Group Coordinator



Free Food

Saginaw Spirit Hockey Game

**Younger Chemists
Committee
&
Student Members** *Midland Section ACS*



Invite YOU !!!

HOCKEY



PRIZES



**Cheap
Tickets**

To the Eagles Nest Suite (Section 31)

- Pizza, Popcorn, & veggies (sponsored by ACS)
- **PRIZES**
- 7:11 pm, February 8th, 2014 (doors open at 6)
- GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
 - order direct from the Spirit (\$9.50 Ea)
 - <https://www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales/>
 - Group ID: ACS Password: hockey*
- OR
- purchase from a Midland Hockey Kid (\$10 Ea, with 50% going to the Midland Hockey League)
- Questions? dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu

Women Chemists Committee Gearing Up for 2014

Jaime Curtis-Fisk, Women Chemists Committee

The Midland Section of the ACS Women Chemists Committee is gearing up for a great kick off year in 2014! We plan to coordinate activities and opportunities across a wide range of areas including outreach, career development, and networking. Involvement in this group can range from participating in certain events that fit your interest area through serving as an active member of the steering committee. We would love to have involvement from all areas (not just industry) and from both professionals and students. Keep in mind that both men and women can be active in this effort. There are a variety of roles to fit your interests and availability. If you would like to be a part of this group or have thoughts to share, please contact me at jcurtisfisk@dow.com and let me know. I look forward to all that we will accomplish this year! Thank you!



Buick Achievers Scholarship Program Application Period Now Open

Barbara Bolin, Executive Director, MI STEM Partnership

The [Buick Achievers Scholarship Program](#), funded by the [General Motors Foundation](#), will accept applications for 2014 scholarships from Monday, Jan. 6, through 5 p.m. EST on Friday, Feb. 28.

This is the fourth year the Buick Achiever Scholarships will be awarded to students who excel in the classroom and give back to the community. To be eligible for the program, high school seniors or current undergraduate students must be looking to obtain a college degree in science, technology, engineering, math, also known as STEM, or other eligible fields related to the auto industry.

Created in 2011, the Buick Achievers Scholarship Program has awarded \$16.5 million to students across the U.S. This year, the program will award 100 scholarships of up to \$25,000 per year, renewable for up to four years, or up to five years for qualified engineering programs.

“The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program is helping students across the U.S. pay for and obtain a quality secondary education focused on STEM,” said GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard. “Through the program, we are helping to shape the next generation of leaders and innovators for the automotive industry and for other sectors important to the future success of our country.”

Students from the United States and Puerto Rico are eligible. To apply for the Buick Achievers Scholarship, or to register for more information, please visit www.buickachievers.com.

For more information about the MI STEM Partnership program, contact Barbara Bolin at 517-899-4233 or visit www.mistempartnership.com.

ACS Scholars Program Application Deadline, March 1 **National ACS**

With the academic year in full swing, now is a perfect time to share National ACS scholarship opportunities with educators and students in your community. Applications are now being accepted for ACS Scholars Program awards.

The ACS offers renewable scholarships through this program to under-represented minority students who want to enter chemistry or related fields. Awards of up to \$5,000 are given to qualified African American, Hispanic or American Indian students who are high school seniors or college freshman, sophomores, or juniors pursuing a college degree in the chemical sciences. Applications are due March 1, 2014. For more information, visit [ACS Scholars Program](#).

By sharing this message with students, teachers and guidance counselors in your area, you will be a Chemistry Ambassador supporting the next generation of science professionals.

2013 National ACS Directors-at-Large Election – One Candidate Elected Each Year by a Minority of Voters in Four of Past Five Years **Wendell L. Dilling, Director and Historian**

In the 2013 ACS election for Directors-at-Large four candidates ran for two positions (*Chem. Eng. News*, Nov. 25, 2013, p 5). Directors-at-Large are selected by Councilors with each Councilor having two votes. The vote tallies were as follows:

Kathleen M. Schulz	262	68.6%
Dorothy J. Phillips	176	46.1%
Susan B. Butts	167	43.7%
Thom H. Dunning, Jr.	103	27.0%

The number of Councilors voting was 382 as reported privately by the Committee on Nominations and Elections. Some (56) voters obviously voted for only one candidate assuming that all voters who returned valid ballots voted for at least one candidate. The numbers shown following the vote tallies are the percentages of voters who voted for that candidate. According to the current bylaw the two candidates (Schulz and Phillips) who received the most votes were elected (plurality). Only Schulz was elected by a majority (>50%) of the voters. Phillips was not selected by a majority of the voters.

Similar situations occurred in the 2009, 2011, and 2012 elections for Directors-at-Large where one of the candidates was elected by less than 50% of the voters [*Chem. Eng. News*, Nov. 23, 2009, p 7 and Mar. 15, 2010, p 5-6; Nov. 28, 2011, p. 9; Nov. 26, 2012, p 7]. If one believes in election by majorities then ACS election procedures for Directors-at-Large should be changed. A method (multiple instant run-off, *Chem. Eng. News*, Mar. 15, 2010, p 5-6) was proposed to carry out elections in which two or more candidates are elected with each being selected by a majority of the voters. Institution of a multiple instant run-off procedure for all elections where more than one candidate is elected would make all ACS elections at the national level require majority support for election. Elections for President-Elect, District Directors, and Directors-at-Large would all operate under the instant run-off method.

An additional advantage of the multiple instant run-off procedure for electing Directors-at-Large is that it allows those voters who vote for only one candidate, possibly because voting for a second candidate using the present procedure may cause their favored candidate to be defeated, to have a vote for a second (or more) candidate.

I am working with the National ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections to change the voting procedure so that all elected candidates for Directors-at-Large are selected by a majority of the voters.

FOUR-LETTER-WORDS!

Midland Section Communications Group

Please **READ** on! ACS needs **YOUR HELP** and your talent...

Love to work online? Do website design? We are in urgent **NEED** of a website coordinator. You would gradually succeed our current volunteer, Greg Cushing, who is still active but has relocated out of the section. We are considering a site rebuild to accommodate some new functions, including a blog. Get in on the ground floor where you can really take a **LEAD** role!

We also must give our current newsletter editors and publicity volunteers a break. If you like to write and deal with the public, have a go at publicity/PR. If you're a social media guru, we could use a volunteer to handle and develop those aspects of our communications. Amy and Steve will transition you into these roles – we need all takers because more people mean less individual work.

These are great opportunities for community service or professional development goals – not to mention the camaraderie, networking potential and skills development! Training is available. Time commitment will vary with role, number of volunteers, and individual preferences. ACS membership is NOT required.

Volunteer—or call for more info—**DON'T WAIT**. Your award-winning section cannot sustain its activities without YOU.

Contact Information

Amy Tesolin-Gee: amtesolin-gee@dow.com; 989-636-1903

Steve Keinath: keinath@mimi.org; 989-832-5555 x 588

Greg Cushing: greg.cushing@hotmail.com

Gina Malczewski: reginamalczewski@gmail.com; 989-631-4038

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- February 3 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- February 8 (6:00 PM - ??) – Saginaw Spirit hockey game, Dow Event Center, Saginaw. For more information, contact Dale LeCaptain at dale.lecaptain@cmich.edu.
- February 28 (5:00 PM) – Buick Achievers Scholarship Program **application deadline**. For more information, see www.buickachievers.com.

- March 1 – ACS Scholars Program **application deadline**. For more information, please see [ACS Scholars Program](#).
- March 3 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- March 16-20 – 247th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Dallas, TX. For more information, see www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/spring-2014.html.
- April 7 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- May 5 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- August 10-14 – 248th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, San Francisco, CA.
- October 1-4 – 45th ACS Central Regional Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. For more information, see www.acscerm2014.org.

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Volunteer Staff

Amy Tesolin-Gee	Editor (newseditor@midlandacs.org)
Steve Keinath	Coeditor
Greg Cushing	Webmaster, electronic distribution
Paige Krzyskowski	Membership roster, hardcopy mailings

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