Our World and Welcome to It

Wow, October is here, and that is another time when members of the ACS can look forward to really coming together.

First off, on October 22, 2011, we will have the Fall Scientific Meeting. This year it will be at Alma College. You can learn more about it by reading the rest of this issue of the Midland Chemist. Also, around then will be Sci-Fest 2011—this is a great time for all the school kids in your house to get out and see, feel and touch just a bit of the chemical world.

Again, look further into this Midland Chemist issue to find out about this great event.

Another thing that is going to happen is…we are going to have elections. Read what the people are saying about what they have done and will do as an officer in the Midland ACS. Elections will be soon.

There are a few other events that have either just happened or are about to happen—why not take a look at this issue of the Midland Chemist and see what is really going on around Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Isabella and Gratiot counties?

Finally, I just wanted to thank all those who have volunteered and helped out and made the events sponsored by the Midland ACS really happen. Those of you who have helped out—many thanks.

Those of you who are looking around who haven’t quite decided how to spend that extra time you have—why not look herein and decide about what you see here? And, if there is something that is not quite what you want to be involved in, there is an answer—just join the volunteers in doing the work and you can be involved in making decisions about what will happen in the future.

Let me close by repeating again what was in the previous issues...

Each of you has a tremendous possibility here, to get involved, to be involved, and to stay involved. So why don’t you read the rest of this issue, find the things you would like to be involved with, and get out there and help. Your time will be greatly appreciated and you just might find that you enjoyed it!

All for now,

Gina Malczewski, Chair-Elect; K&C Co-chair

Section Sponsors “Biofuels: Thinking Outside the Barrel”

Biofuels: Thinking Outside the Barrel

October 6, 2011, 6:30 pm
Garden Room, Midland Center for the Arts
Cost: FREE; open to everyone

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in collaboration with the Midland Section ACS presents a dynamic panel discussion, including audience participation: Biofuels: Thinking Outside the Barrel. This free presentation will be Thursday, Octo-

ber 6, at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd, Midland.

The event is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. No registration is required.

Biofuels are derived from non-fossil organic matter. Global production of biofuels, such as bioethanol and biodiesel, has been accelerating in recent years. The expansion of biofuel production, encouraged in part by government mandates in the EU and the US, could have widespread social and environmental consequences.

Positive impacts could include the stabilization of oil prices, increased fuel security, the opening of new markets, new energy sources for developing countries and higher commodity prices for the poor. Negative impacts might include biodiversity loss, soil erosion, nutrient leaching and increased carbon emissions from inappropriate land clearance.

Concerns have also been raised about food security, as a large agricultural shift to fuel production might dramatically increase food prices and increase pressure on small farmers in both developed and developing countries.

(Continued on page 2)
**Jeff Seifferly, MMTG Chair**

**MMTG Summer Activity Remained High**

The Mid-Michigan Technician Group (MMTG) continued to be active with involvement in many different events throughout the summer.

We presented our MMTG 2011 Outstanding Technology Student Award to David Gutowski at this year’s Midland Section ACS Spring Science Education Awards Banquet. We received more award applications this year than ever before; eleven, with three additional applications received after the nomination deadline.

We hosted our first Lunch and Learn program on “Motivation and Goal Setting.” It detailed self-motivation solutions, productivity builders, the most crucial qualities to help you set realistic goals, how to avoid time-wasting tangents, and how to stay focused on your objectives.

MMTG members participated in Science Education outreach events such as judging and demos at the Bay City Handy science fair. We participated in demonstrations at “Explore Day” at St. Thomas Aquinas and the “Carnival of Learning” at Bay Area Community High School. We sponsored a Great Lakes Loons baseball game / MMTG mixer / membership drive, and our members and guests received a private tour of the facility and a Loons gift bag.

MMTG members helped plan and staff the ACS Booth at the Midland County Fair. The booth provided free food and refreshments for Midland Section ACS members and their families and also science / chemistry demonstrations for children and guests. Our members also participated in the Midland Center for the Arts “Masses of Gases” interactive / walk-by demos as part of MCFTA’s “It’s a Gas” exhibit.

We recently sponsored our second MMTG Lunch and Learn seminar, “Secrets to De-Junking Your Life.” We learned to recognize our personal time-wasters and eliminate them; how to get control of the paper on our desk, in our in-box, and in our files once and for all; how to stop worrying about the things we can’t change; and how to establish priorities quickly and eliminate distractions that pull us away from our most vital tasks.

Our MMTG Lunch and Learn seminars are free and open to current MMTG members and prospective new members. We are always looking for new members interested in science, networking, outreach activities, and career development. For further information about the Mid-Michigan Technician Group, call or e-mail 2011 MMTG Chair, Jeff Seifferly, at 989-496-4239 or jeff.seifferly@dowcorning.com.

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**Melissa Strait, 2011 FSM Chair**

**Ann Duffy of 2010 Olympics to Speak at 2011 FSM**

The 2011 Fall Scientific Meeting will be held at Alma College on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Appropriate to our theme of Think Globally, Act Locally, we will be hosting Ann Duffy, Corporate Sustainability Officer, for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

Ann will deliver the keynote address, Ann Duffy—Raising Our Game, discussing the creation of the first integrated approach to address environmental, social and economic aspirations in new ways (www.AnnDuffyGroup.com).

In addition, we have a full slate of speakers in three symposia covering Power Technology, Environmental Awareness, and Biotechnology.

The call for abstracts has gone out and the website is now open. Please visit the Midland Section FSM website for more information. There will be two poster sessions and an oral presentation session for student presenters. Abstracts were due September 30. We ask that you register by October 14.

For more information, you can contact Melissa Strait, 2011 Fall Scientific Meeting chair, by phone (989) 463-7223, or by e-mail (straitm@alma.edu).

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**Dave Stickles, Director**

**Sci-Fest Set for Dow Diamond Nov. 5th**

Please contact Dave Stickles (dstick44@chartermi.net) if you are interested in being an exhibitor this year. Even if you feel you can’t relate your activity directly to the theme, we would still welcome you for any tie in you have to science and chemistry. Our goal is to spike the interest of kids so they will take an interest in science programs/studies in school.

Ideas to help tie in your exhibit would be health, nutrition, exercise, exercise equipment, recreation, air and water quality, safety equipment, environmental health, sports, sporting equipment, dental health, stress reduction, and a host of other things that will help improve our future health through chemistry.
Wendy Flory, Councilor

Midland Section Wins ChemLuminary at National Meeting

Hurricane Irene was coming ashore at the beginning of the 242nd ACS national meeting which took place in Denver, Colorado Aug. 28–Sept. 1, 2011. While there may have been some delays for the East Coast travelers, the attendance at this meeting was over 10,000.

There were 6,088 regular attendees, 2,376 students, 218 guests, 394 exhibits only, and 1,000 exhibitors registered as of September 1st. The theme of the meeting was Chemistry of Air, Space, and Water.

Following are some highlights that might be of interest to the Local Section.

ACS ChemLuminary Results

The theme for the 13th annual ChemLuminary Awards Ceremony was: ACS Volunteers—Making a World of Difference, exemplifying the dedication of ACS members.

Dr. Nancy Jackson, 2011 President of the ACS, kicked off the ceremony by thanking all 187 local sections for their countless hours of volunteering. Nancy spoke to a packed house, with more than 1,000 folks attending, many in chairs that were added at the back of the room.

Toward the end of the evening, when Outstanding Local Section Awards were presented, these words were spoken by Dr. Lee Latimer, chair of the Committee on Local Section Activities, “*Please join me in congratulating...Tom, are you listening?...the Midland Local Section.*” Midland Section won Outstanding Performance by a Local Section—Medium Size Category Award; a shining moment for our Section, hedging out three other very tough competitors.

Midland Section 2010 activities that were acknowledged during the awards ceremony included Sci-Fest, attended by 1000 people, which highlighted 35 science exhibits and a science camp for children; Earth Day which featured 13 exhibitors at the Midland Center for the Arts, attracting 500 people; and the accomplishments of local academic members and technicians that were recognized at a spring banquet.

To see the complete list of 2011 ChemLuminary awards, the video, and some posters from the poster session, go to www.acs.org and search ChemLuminary 2011.

Employment, Economic and Professional Activities

The Presidential Task Force on Innovation and Job Creation released their report, entitled “Innovation, Chemistry & Jobs.” This can be found at www.acs.org/creatingjobs.

ACS President Nancy Jackson, members of the Board, and other committee members are working on the “Paying It Forward” campaign. See www.acs.org/payitforward for details.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) and Corporation Associates co-sponsored a new program funding request to establish an entrepreneurial initiative. First, it establishes an educational program to guide new entrepreneurs through the creation of new chemical businesses. Second, it supports the formation of new chemical companies by providing access to the resources of the Society, as well as other professional resources. The initiative was approved by the Board, and will be implemented early next year.

The Chemical Entrepreneurship Council (CEC) has assembled. The group consists of the Women Chemists Committee, the Committee on Science, the Division of Small Chemical Businesses, the Division of Business Development and Management, the National Collegiate Inventors and the Innovators Alliance. This self-organized working group is concerned with providing the resources and skills necessary for chemists to translate research into innovations which can become commercial products.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs hosted the largest virtual career fair yet. The presentation on Networking 101 was recorded and will soon be available.

2011 Fall ACS National Elections

The president elect candidates are Dr. Dennis Chamot (National Academy of Sciences), and Dr. Marinda Li Wu, (President, Science is Fun!).

Candidates for directors-at-large are K. B. Anderson (Southern Ill. Univ.), W. F. Carroll, Jr., (Occidental Chemical Corp), C. E. Kolb, (Aerodyne Research, Inc.), and B. A. Sawrey, (UC San Diego).

Candidates for director, District III are P. N. Confalone (DuPont), and D. J. Lohse (Retired, ExxonMobil).

Candidates for director, District VI are B. A. Charpentier (Regulatory and Quality, Metabolex, Inc.), and C. G. (Continued on page 4)
(Continued from page 3)
Gutierrez (Cal. State Univ.).

Nominations and Elections
The following were elected by the council to serve starting in 2012.

Committee on Committees: Rigoberto Hernandez, Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor, Zaida C. Morales-Martinez, Howard M. Peters and Sara J. Risch.

Council Policy Committee: Lawrence Barton, Peter C. Jurs, Mamie W. Moy, and Eleanor D. Siebert.


Petition on ACS Constitution and Bylaws
The council VOTED to approve the Petition on Position Statements, which allows for clear and consistent position development for the Society. The petition assures that the Board of Directors has sole authority in issuing position statements that establish policy for the full Society; and that Society bodies other than the Board may issue statements on issues that fall solely in their jurisdiction so long as they do not impair other Society bodies’ ability to do the same. The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petition.

Changes in Technical Divisions
The Division of Catalysis Science and Technology was granted full Division status and its proposed bylaws were approved.

The division of Petroleum Chemistry and Division of Fuel Chemistry are now combined with the name Division of Energy and Fuels. There was much discussion on the name proposed for the new division. The motion passed with 53% ‘yes’ votes.

Special Topic
ACS President Nancy Jackson presented and moderated a discussion on how ACS can best cultivate a culture of safety in US universities and colleges. At the 2011 ACS national meeting in Anaheim, the Committee on Chemical Safety launched an effort to identify ways to assist academia in strengthening and building strong safety cultures.

Devastating incidents in academic laboratories and observations by many that graduates do not have strong safety skills have elevated concerns about the safety culture in academia. A discussion by the council generated ideas for addressing this issue. For any comments or questions, email safety@acs.org.

Actions of the Board of Directors
On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board VOTED to approve an advance member registration fee of $360 for national meetings held in 2012.

Four programs received funding for 2012 (most are continuations of existing programs): ACS Fellows; ACS Leadership Institute; ACS Scholars; and ACS Global Research Experiences, Exchanges, and Training Program (GREET).

The Board VOTED to adopt the non-councilor reimbursement policy as presented by CPC (at the rate of 50% of the councilor travel reimbursement) effective 2012.

Other Tidbits
• Starting in 2012, members can download 25 articles from ACS journals at no cost as part of member benefits.
• A website has been created with information on past ACS presidents found at www.acs.org/acspresidents. Input and corrections are welcomed at prehistory@acs.org.
• Information on ACS webinars and virtual career fairs can be found at: www.acswebinars.org/vcf2011.
• The leadership training institute will be held Jan 20-22 (this is especially useful for 2012 chair-elects).
• The women chemists committee is creating a “rising star” award for mid-career women. Nominations are welcome.

Lisa Thackery, Director; K&C Co-chair

Kids & Chemistry / Outreach Appreciates Volunteers

Thanks to all who helped at ACS day at the Midland Co. Fair on Aug. 16. In line with tradition, food and discounted ride tickets were provided to ACS members. Kids & Chemistry provided the “Carnival of Chemistry” demos with lessons around lemonade, cotton candy, and popcorn. (A large number of MMTG members especially deserve a round of applause for their efforts to help make this event happen!)

Carnival of Chemistry was also presented at Shelterhouse in a back to school event on Aug. 27. Shelterhouse serves Midland and Gladwin counties and provide safety, shelter, advocacy and counselling to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

On Sept. 8, “Masses of Gases” was performed at MCFTA in conjunction with the “It's A Gas” traveling exhibit. NanoNight was presented the following week (13th) with the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum at the Pere Marquette Library in Clare. Hands-on activities focused on the basics of nanoscience, real world applications, and the societal and ethical implications of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. K&C again helped the museum present the NanoKit on Sept. 18 at a Mid Michigan Community College Fall BBQ (with annual attendance of over 2000 guests).

A volunteer appreciation dinner was held on Sept. 27 with awards and gifts to our valuable K&C volunteers. Visitors from National ACS were in attendance as well. Mary Kirchhoff, Director of the ACS Education Division and Patty Galvin, K&C Program Manager also had the opportunity to present awards to our Science Coaches and to talk with them about ways to enhance the program in its second year. Our very own Angelo Cassar gave his popular Science Café presentation on coffee so that our volunteers could actually participate as an audience.

Demonstrations and hands-on science activities with Big Brothers Big Sisters (Heart of Michigan) Teaming Up With YOUth program, involving multiple elementary and middle schools in Midland and Isabella counties, will again be ongoing throughout the school year.

The Salvation Army of Bay City would like volunteers to bring science activities to their new after-school program. Also, the third installment of the Camp Chemistry program for Junior Girl Scouts will be held Nov 12 at Delta College. This year’s theme is Polymers: Girl Scouts Bonding at Camp Chemistry. Volunteers are needed to help lead these activities.

Contact Lisa.Thackery@dowcorning.com for details on any of these up-coming programs.
Japanese company has developed a method to turn shredded paper into a stronger, greener paper-plastic composite, and Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) is helping to bring the technology—along with 30 new jobs—to the United States.

Tokyo-based ECO Research Institute (ERI) has developed a process that can grind shredded office paper to the micron size range; that recyclette is then used as a filler in thermoplastics.

Dr. James Plonka, President and CEO of MMI, said the ERI/MMI partnership has led to the formation of Eco Bio Plastics Midland, Inc., which will implement the micro-ground paper-plastic composite technology at a new facility to be built in Midland. Groundbreaking is expected to happen before year’s end.

Plonka said Eco Bio Plastics Midland will be a U.S.-based subsidiary of ERI, with MMI providing financial investment and technical support, as well as the development of new technology in the field.

"Part of MMI’s mission is to stimulate economic development based on polymer and materials science in Michigan,” he said. "The partnership that has led to the creation of Eco Bio Plastics certainly fits that description. We believe EBP provides an excellent opportunity to create more quality jobs in Michigan.”

At the Japan Midwest U.S. Annual Conference today, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder praised the formation of the new company.

"Michigan and Midland are naturals to bring leading-edge technologies to the U.S., particularly one that transforms paper waste into a broad range of consumer and business applications,” Snyder said. "Our meeting today with ERI executives detailed this pioneering green technology that holds the promise of significant growth in our state’s renewable/sustainable business sector.”

Plonka noted EBP has chosen a site for the new Midland facility, with the expectation to break ground before November and to begin production next summer.

"Midland is a good location for the demonstration facility for a couple reasons,” Plonka said. "First, because of the paper shredding services provided by the Arnold Center, Midland is an excellent source of paper feedstock. And secondly, some of the most innovative plastics research in the world occurs in Midland. It’s a natural fit.”

"Our plans call for the initial paper-plastic composite production facility to produce 10 million pounds per year, with the ability to grow to 100 million pounds per year,” Plonka said.

"The bottom line in the short term,” he added, "is that because of legal and privacy concerns in the business, health and financial sectors, the generation of shredded paper is going to continue to mount, and this research provides a useful, potentially lucrative alternative to simply dumping this paper in landfills, or incinerating or repulpitng it. In the longer term, we expect to be able to utilize this technology to develop a whole host of different applications, across many different industries.”

Americans generate 80 million tons of waste paper and paperboard every year, accounting for nearly one-third of the country’s total municipal waste stream. ERI has developed a process that microgrinds shredded office paper to the micron size range; that recyclate is then used as a filler in thermoplastics. Dr. Adrian Merrington is heading up MMI’s technical participation in the project, which has significant environmental and economic implications.

"People around the world are generating millions of tons of waste paper every year,” Merrington said. "And waste paper with relatively short fibers—shredded office paper, for instance, or dust produced in the bookbinding industry—cannot be recycled into particularly high-quality paper or paper products.

"But by using this process patented by ERI, these cellulosic fibers can be used to enhance the mechanical properties of a paper-plastic composite,” Merrington added. "The presence of paper in these composites improves a number of properties, such as colorability and reduced mold shrinkage, two common problems associated with some commodity thermoplastics. Just as importantly, the ERI process reduces carbon dioxide emissions in production by as much as 80%, so it’s a huge improvement environmentally.”

What sort of products would benefit from the ERI process? Merrington said the materials are already used in the production of some earth-friendly toys in Japan. Other products include chopsticks and bowls that are robust enough to withstand repeated dishwasher cycles. MMI is in the process of establishing a consortium of parties interested in commercializing the technology, including local partners.

"The initial use of ERI’s technology in the U.S. will be to bring a paper-plastic composite production to the Arnold Center here in Midland,” he said. "One of the services provided by the Arnold Center is the shredding of sensitive documents. We hope to enhance their shredding facility by adding a unit operation that grinds the shredded paper using ERI technology to produce a higher-value product. That would in turn increase the value of the paper product the Arnold Center sells to compounders like Midland Compounding and Consulting.”

Initial work will focus on the paper-plastic composite, but Merrington said he’s also heard from a number of parties who are interested in biodegradable and bio-sourced alternatives.

ERI is a Japanese company founded in 1998 by Takamichi Matsu- shita. Its core business is manufacturing new materials out of industrial waste paper through innovative technology. With numerous manufacturing sites in Japan and Asia, ERI is now regarded as one of the most successful and progressive eco-companies in Japan, as evidenced by its numerous prestigious industry awards. ERI’s major investor is the Development Bank of Japan. More information is available at www.ecobioplastics.jp/eri/.

MMI, founded in Midland, Mich. in 1971, is a non-profit organization dedicated to polymer research and education. It offers world-class research and development across many areas, including photonics, membranes, specialty coatings, delivery systems and sensors. Its core capabilities include polymer synthesis and design; polymer characterization; polymer science; materials science; polymer formulation and processing; heterogeneous catalysis; silicone chemistry; and biobased materials.

For more information, visit www.mmi.org or contact: Dr. Adrian Merrington - 989.832.5555, ext. 638 or merrington@mmi.org.
Candidate Profiles for 2012 Midland Section Offices

Candidate for Chair-Elect
Veronica Barone

Candidate Statement: I believe that great things happen when we expand our horizons and constructively exchange ideas with colleagues from different disciplines. As a computational physicist, I have learned a lot about interdisciplinary materials research by joining the ACS, MRS, and ACerS societies and participating in their meetings. My main focus in office will be to enhance the liaison between disciplines as much as possible and encourage a deeper interaction between academia and industry. With the exciting momentum provided at the national level by the recently announced Materials Genome Initiative, I will devote my efforts to making ACS Midland Section move in that direction as well.


For more information about Veronica, visit: http://www.phy.cmich.edu/people/barone/

Chandrasiri Jayakody

Candidate Statement: Today, the American Chemical Society flourishes with 187 local sections and more than 163,000 professionals as society members, claiming the world’s largest scientific society, with an international membership exceeding 24,000 in more than 100 countries. This success is linked to the Society’s Mission and Vision statements, “improving people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry” and “to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its People.” I’m honored to be nominated as a candidate for the chair-elect position for the Midland Section of such a great organization.

Members of a local section are part of a diverse group of professionals working together to promote chemistry in their communities for the benefit of earth and people through various activities such as Earth Day, Project SEED, National Chemistry Week, Guest Speaker programs, and various other activities.

(Continued on page 7)
The magic of ACS is that it allows ordinary people to do these extraordinary things for the benefit of humanity. If elected, I would concentrate my efforts in getting more people involved in local activities, promoting current programs and bringing new ideas to promote chemistry among school children and local community.


ACS Activities: Member of ACS since 1993. Involved in National Chemistry Week activities at the Carnegie Science Center organized by Pittsburgh Local Section. Other Information: A Rotarian dedicated to service above self; 2007: Club President; 08-10: Asst. Governor, Southwestern PA; 2009 District Service Award; 99–present: Committee Member, ASTM E05 Fire Standards; 2011–present ASTM Committee F04, Medical & Surgical Materials and Devices; Adjunct Faculty, CMU. Published 32 papers, 4 book chapters, 1 patent & 2 applications.

Wayde Konze
Candidate Statement: One of the most important things for us to stress in the Midland ACS organization is the scientific nurturing of the young minds in our area. I don't think that every person is cut out to be a scientist, but for those that are we need to capture the spark and fan it into flames by the best means available. The outreach programs and other activities that this organization sponsors help to achieve this, and I will commit to expanding these activities into various age groups in creative ways in order to further meet this need.

Another area that I believe is critical for this organization is to showcase the technical excellence in this region by actively recruiting top speakers and contributors at events in order to attract larger audiences for greater impact and collaboration. I have a solid network of colleagues to draw upon for these endeavors.

Finally, I would like this organization to be at the forefront of some of the more challenging and topical issues facing our region and nation, such as sustainability efforts, changes and opportunities in energy research affecting our region, and breakthroughs in biochemistry which will allow our food supply to keep up with population growth and combat diseases more effectively. This latter is a field that is ripe with chemistry problems to solve, and is poised to lead us into the future. However, the active embracing of this field by chemists will be necessary for success in this area.

Although I have not been actively involved in this organization since moving to Midland four years ago, I feel that it is a very important vehicle for providing scientific cohesion in the region, recruitment of future talent, and leadership for tackling challenging scientific areas. I will take on this role with fresh eyes and can offer a different perspective to help invigorate this organization.

Professional Experience: DCC employee since 2000, split between Midland, MI and Freeport, TX. Currently Director of global Analytical Sciences organization. Experience in catalysis, synthetic transformations, polymer science, commercial implementation, project leadership, people leadership and development, recruiting, organizational strategy.


ACS Activities: Membership during graduate school, rejoined in 2009. Have attended and/or presented at several national meetings.

Other Information: Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, volunteer musician for Relay for Life, musician in First United Methodist praise band.

Candidates for Secretary
Seiji Inaoka

Education: B.E. Applied Chemistry, Keio University (Japan), 1987; M.S. Applied Chemistry, Keio University (Japan), 1989; Ph.D. Chemistry (Organic / Polymer), Georgia Institute of Technology, 1998.


Other Information: Author / co-author of more than 8 US Patents, plus corresponding foreign patents.

Personal Statement: I am very excited about this opportunity to join the ACS Midland Section Board as secretary. I understand this Section is already filled with many talented personnel in the chemistry field.

I would like to help the Section to be connected to the Mid-Michigan community by introducing and promoting activities of chemistry to generations in the local community. I would like to make a contribution based on views and experience I have acquired in the past 20 years at various locations and opportunities as an Organic/Polymer chemist and engineer by training.

Kumar Nanjundiah
Professional Experience: Associate Scientist at Dow Chemical Company from 2007–present; Graduate assistant, University of Akron 2001–2007; Research Associate - GE research center, John F Welch technology center

(Continued on page 8)
(Continued from page 7)


Education: B.S. Polymer Science and Engineering, Mysore University, India, 1999; M.S. Polymer Engineering, University of Akron, OH 2003; Ph.D. Polymer Science, University of Akron, OH, 2007.

ACS Activity: Became student member in 2004; Presented Talk at ACS conference 2010 at San Francisco. Been coauthor on other posters and talks given at ACS symposia 2004 onwards

Other Information: Organizing Secretary, MACRO symposium on polymer blends, University of Mysore 1999; member of Polymer student organization leadership 2003.

Personal Statement: I am very excited about the opportunity to join the ACS Midland Section Board. The opportunity to serve on the Board will aid in understanding the needs of local community better and continue to promote science awareness in the schools and greater midland community.

This would also give me an opportunity to interact with the diverse expertise in various fields of science present in this community. I also hope that my background and interests can bring a new perspective to the Midland ACS.

Candidates for Treasurer

Robert Freeman


Education: Ph.D., Chemistry, Kansas State University, B.S., Math/Chemistry, Oklahoma Panhandle State University

ACS Activities: Member for local sections in Texas, Minnesota, and Oklahoma. Have assisted with scientific meetings, education workshops, chemistry magic shows, science fairs, and section financial management.

Other Information: Provided leadership and support for community initiatives with household hazardous waste, used motor oil recycling, and indoor air quality.

Personal Statement: I enjoy working in local ACS sections because I believe the local ACS section serves as a technical and scientific hub for the community, industry, and education. The local section provides the catalyst to inspire young people to engage in science, resources for community initiatives, and is a great place to continue to learn and grow.

Haoyu Zhang


Education: Ph.D. Chemistry, The Ohio State University, 2007; M.S. Chemistry, Fudan University, China, 2002; B.S. Chemistry, Fudan University, China, 1999.


Other Information: President, Benchball Club, The Ohio State University; vice chair, Tri-City Chinese Association (TCCA); Committee member, Younger Researcher Community, The Dow Chemical Company.

Personal Statement: I am very excited about the opportunity to join the ACS Midland Section Board. As a member of the ACS committee, I will work actively to advance the vision and goals of our Society and those professionals who perform every day to improve people’s lives through chemistry.

Candidates for Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Shawn (Xiaoyun) Chen


Education: B.A. Polymer Science and Engineering, 2002 Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Ph.D. Chemistry, 2007 University of Michigan


Personal Statement: I have not had the opportunity to be actively involved in the local ACS activities. I hope that I will have the honor to contribute to my local ACS organization.

John Curley


Education: B.S. in Chemistry, Saginaw Valley State University 2010. B.S. in Chemical Physics, Saginaw Valley State University, 2010.

ACS Activities: Student affiliate member through SVSU 2008–10. Full member in 2010, just reached 1 year anniversary. ACS Chemistry Ambassador 2010–current with involvement in International Year of Chemistry within local School programs, including various chemistry demonstrations.

Other Information: Accepted as a member of the incoming class in 2006 to study applied physics at Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland. Currently seeking publication possibilities for Honors thesis project from SVSU – the Undergraduate Chemistry Bible; notes, examples and practice problems compiled throughout 100–400 level chemistry courses at SVSU.

Personal Statement: The American Chemical Society has been an extremely valuable tool for me throughout my young career in the chemical industry and I am honored to now have the opportunity to give something back. I am committed to a life of learning and constantly look for new ways to expand my knowledge of chemistry as well as offer the knowledge I do have to others. I look to draw on personal skills as well as network connections in order to expand the reach of the American Chemical Society throughout the area.

Candidates for Councilor (3-year term)

Bob Howell

Professional Experience: Professor, Chemistry/Polymer Science, Central Michigan University; polymer degradation/stability, polymer additives from renewable sources, green flame retardants, barrier plastic packaging, thermal methods of analysis.

Education: B.A., Chemistry, Berea

ACS Activities: Midland Section: service in many capacities including chair (two terms); currently councilor and chair of the Government Affairs Committee; organized symposia at Fall Scientific Meetings and Central Regional Meetings. National: long time councilor from the Midland Section; over 20 years of service (including chair) on several committees. Project SEED mentor award, 2003. Elected ACS Fellow, 2011.

Other Information: Mentor to numerous undergraduates who have presented papers at local, regional and national ACS meetings (several receiving best paper rankings). Long-time member of the North American Thermal Analysis Society; service in several capacities including chair; currently a member of the Executive Board & Meetings Councilor. Elected NATAS Fellow, 2002.

Personal Statement: I have enjoyed working with many individuals over the years - some of the faces may change but the dedication remains - this is the feature that makes the Midland Section exceptional. As councilor I have tried to represent the Section sentiments at the national level and to faithfully report to the Section Board. Being councilor has provided the opportunity for service on several important national committees. This provides good exposure and input for the Section. I am honored to serve as councilor and will continue to work hard to assure that the interests of the Section are well-represented.

Estelle Lebeau
Professional Experience: Faculty, Inorganic Chemistry, Central Michigan University, 1999–present (currently hold Graduate, Professional Education, and Honors Faculty status); Lecturer, Inorganic Chemistry, The Johns Hopkins University, 1998.


Personal Statement: The Midland Section’s demographics and priorities should be represented on its Advisory Board and at the National level through our Section’s councilors. While I respect and appreciate the history of achievement in the Midland Section, I believe the membership will be well served and represented by a fresh perspective and influx of new ideas and energy, especially in the areas of education and outreach. Education of the public and K-12 teachers is an enormous undertaking and ACS needs to lead the charge. I’d like to see education efforts be a priority for our Section and our councilors.

Candidates for Alternate Councilor (3-year term)
Tim De Vries


Other Information: As you can see, my ACS activities to date have been limited. As a graduate student and postdoc, it was hard to find time to make the commitment to serve. Now, settling into a career and with more reasonable working hours, I see this as a great opportunity to change that.

I honestly don’t know how exactly I’ll be able to contribute to the local section of the ACS, or to contribute to the community through the Society. I’m eager to learn what needs to be done and to help identify areas where I can help personally or we can help collectively.

Connie Murphy
Professional Experience: The Dow Chemical Company (retired): Sr. Admin. Supervisor (supervised IT professionals). ’06–08; Sr. R&D Specialist (managed project portfolio/supervised technologists), ’03–06; R&D Technologist Leader, ‘00–03 (supervised technologists/managed capital budget); R&D Technologist, ‘80–00 (monomer/polymer synthesis & processing – five patents)

Education: Milwaukee Area Technical College, A.A.S, in Chemical Technology

University of Wisconsin, undergraduate coursework, major: Secondary Education (math/chem.).

ACS Activities: Midland: director-’08; membership chair-’99–08

National Committees: Chemistry & Public Affairs-chair ‘11, member ‘08–11; committees-’04–07; Membership Affairs-’98–04; , Technician Affairs-’97–06

Division of Chemical Technicians: councilor-’98–06; membership chair-’97; chair-‘96; webmaster-’96–04

Other: ACS Leadership courses facilitator-’08-11; Bylaw councilor-’07

Other Information: Honors: ACS Fellow, 2011; Outstanding Service to the ACS (Midland Section), 2008; Distinguished Service Award, (Division of Chemical Technicians), 2006; Outstanding Chemical Technician (Midland Section), 1997; Outstanding Technologist Achievement (awarded by Dow Central R&D Scientists Org.), 1994; 7 Special Recognition Awards (The Dow Chemical Co.)

Personal Statement: People often ask me why I volunteer with the ACS. My answer: I’m giving back. ACS gave me the opportunity to develop skills that I leveraged in my “day job,” gave me visibility and credibility that opened doors to opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise, and connected me to a network of professional colleagues locally and across the country.

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I'd like to help more Midland Section members reap the benefits of taking an active role—and in the process, the Section will benefit from the fresh perspectives of new volunteers.

Candidates for Director (3-year term)
John M. Gohndrone

Professional Experience: Currently a Process Engineering Scientist for Dow Corning Corporation with 24 years experience in various process research and development positions; Research and Teaching assistant, University of Illinois, 1983–87; Senior Technician, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1982–3.

Education: B.S. ChE, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1983; M.S. ChE, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1985; PhD ChE, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, 1987.

ACS Activities: Member since 1983. Member of the Midland Section since 1987. Program co-chair for the Midland Section Fall Scientific Meeting, 1995. I regularly participate in National Meetings at a frequency of 1 meeting every two to three years.


Personal Statement: I am very familiar with the Midland Section ACS activities and accomplishments. I will bring my leadership experience from my roles at Dow Corning, Michigan Catalysis Society, and AIChE to serve the Midland Section to the best of my ability to its continued excellence.

Eldon Graham

Professional Experience: Professor Emeritus, & teaching part time at Saginaw Valley State University. Also serve as the Director of the Engineering Technology Management Program at SVSU. Former Dow Chemical Company employee, engaged in research and research management. Joined SVSU to found, & to establish, its Engineering and Technology Programs (now Nationally accredited).

Education: B.S. Chemical Engineering, Purdue University. M.S. Polymer Chemistry, Michigan State University. Dr. Sci. (Honorary), Saginaw Valley State University.

Personal Statement: As a long time active member of the Midland Section ACS, I am proud of my membership in the Section, and of chemistry as the "central science," from which many other disciplines draw their strength. I will strive to make the Midland Section ACS a leader in making the Midland area a vibrant center of science and engineering activities.

Darren Hansen

Professional Experience: I have primarily worked in semiconductor manufacturing for my career. My current position is with Dow Corning Compound Semiconductor where we focus on manufacturing SiC wafers for the electronics industry.

Education: I received my Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Chemical Engineer) from the University of Michigan (1995). I then received my Doctorate in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2001). My thesis work focused on the chemistry of glass growth and Si wafer bonding for applications in semiconductor technology.

ACS Activities: 2011 American Chemical Society-Midland Section treasurer.

Personal Statement: Having spent 2011 as the Midland Section treasurer, I received an in depth exposure to the people and activities of the Midland Section ACS. I am firmly of the opinion that the Midland Section ACS is doing outstanding things for Chemistry and for the community. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with this excellent team to share chemistry with others in this role and am committed to continuing to support the Local Section of the ACS.

David Karpovich

Professional Experience: Saginaw Valley State University, Department of Chemistry, 1998–present. Currently serving as the H. H. Dow Endowed Chair and Professor.


Other Information: Co-author on 14 peer-reviewed publications, 5 patent applications, and 21 extramural grants. Recipient of SVSU’s 2009 Warrick Award for Excellence in Research.

Analytical consultant for several companies through the SVSU Independent Testing Lab.

Personal Statement: I have always appreciated how the ACS embraces the next generation of chemists. Outreach to school kids, Project SEED internships, ACS Scholars program, and the inclusion of Student Members are all great traditions of mentorship within the ACS. My primary interest is to help continue similar programs that help young chemists discover and navigate their careers.

Brian Landes

Professional Experience: Research and Development at The Dow Chemical Company from 1984–present. Currently serve as a Technology Leader for the Surface, Microscopy, and X-ray Diffraction/Scattering Group within Dow Core R&D. Expertise in the areas of polymer structure, morphology, metrology and process/structure/property relationships.


ACS Activities: An active member since 2004; Former chair of the Inter-society Relations for ACS, PMSE and SPE.

Other Information: Current councilor for the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) & former chair of the Engineering Properties & Structure Division, technical program, chair for National ANTEC & regional nanomaterials conferences; Board of Directors for the DuPont-Northwestern-Dow Collaborative Access Team at Argonne; Industrial Users Steering Team at NSLS, Brookhaven.

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Abhijit Sarkar
Professional Experience: Research Scientist at Michigan Molecular Institute from 2001–present; Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, Central Michigan University, 2010–present; Adjunct Professor of Physics, University of North Texas, 2008–present.


ACS Activity: Currently Serving as secretary, Midland Section, 2011; Organizer of ACS Spring Symposium on “New Membranes and Resins for Wastewater Treatment” at New Orleans, LA, 6-10 April, 2008; Member since 1999.


Personal Statement: During the last year, I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement as secretary of ACS Midland Section. The experience has given me the various aspects of activities that the Section carries out.

I would like to use my experience gained through the ACS Midland Section, as well as in other places during my career, to get more involved as a director of the Section and promote chemistry among the local community. I hope to share my experience with the Midland ACS section and continue to promote science awareness in the schools and greater community, and to bring a new perspective to Midland ACS.

Florian Schattenmann


In Past Issues of The Midland Chemist

40 Years Ago This Month
In Scientific Mtg. Features Environment: "The ACS Fall Scientific Meeting will be held on October 30, 1971, at the H. H. Dow High School in Midland, Michigan. The theme of the meeting this year will be "The Environment Today," with particular emphasis being placed upon the various ecological problems that exit and the solutions that are being brought to bear on these problems. Dr. Allan Hirsch, Director of the Division of Program Development in the office of the Assistant Administrator for Planning and Management within the Environmental Protection Agency, will deliver the keynote address."

30 Years Ago This Month
In Fall Scientific Audience to Learn About Potential Volcanic Predictability by Gretchen S. Kohl: "It is possible to work in the crater of a volcano like Mt. St. Helens in relative safety, according to Donald W. Peterson of the Cascades Volcano Observatory, U.S. Geological Survey, who will present the keynote address at the 37th annual Fall Scientific Meeting, to be held Nov. 7 at H.H. Dow High School."

20 Years Ago This Month
In 1991 Fall Scientific Meeting by Steven J. Gluck: "In a direct reflection of the theme of this year's meeting, 'Science Education Today: The Foundation of our Future,' we are extremely pleased to have Dr. Bassam Shakhashiri from the University of Wisconsin - Madison present this year's Keynote Address, 'Developing A Will to Enhance the Quality of Science Education in America.' He will also present 'Communicating Science,' which includes spectacular science demonstrations at the conclusion of today's meeting. Because our science educators are instrumental in solving our nation's science education crisis, we have invited 600 area science educators to participate. The science education part of the program includes a workshop designed for the educators to document their needs, a series of presentations on opportunities available to them presented by teachers, and an exposition which includes demonstrations and available resources."

10 Years Ago This Month
In The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society Welcomes You to Our 57th Fall Scientific Meeting! by Fred Vance: "When I agreed to chair the Fall Scientific Meeting for the second consecutive year, I was told I must either be courageous or thick in the head. I'll let you be the judge, but I think you'll find we have a lot to offer for this year's event. You can expect this meeting to be a bit different from years past. To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the ACS, we have chosen to concentrate our offerings around one of the Society's oldest and most prominent traditions, publishing. It's easy as scientists to espouse the noble act of presenting our work for public scrutiny. Yet, when it comes time to act nobly in our daily workplace, we're often faced with questions like 'Why should I publish?', 'What should I publish?' and (if we make it this far) 'How do I actually get this published?' Our goal this year is to help answer some of these questions. Our keynote speaker, Prof. Allen J. Bard is the editor of the Journal of the American Chemical Society and a highly published author. His address will give an historical overview on scientific publishing, discuss some of the technical and ethical issues surrounding it, and offer his perspective on where it might be headed. Our panel discussion will expound upon these issues, bringing together the viewpoints of industrial and academic scientists, managers, and (so important in industry) an attorney."

Pasquale Di Raddo, Ferris State University

Professor Writes Chemical Poetry

Chemist at the Beach*
Flaming red fused hydrogen
Singed gold silicon oxide
Soothing clear cooling aqua.

(Continued from page 11)

Dave Stickle

Education: Graduated from Ferris State University in 1974 with an AAS Degree in Industrial Chemistry Technology.

MMTG Activities: I have been involved with MMTG since its inception in 1990 and have had several board positions including chair, chair-elect, secretary, director and elected delegate.

ACS Activity: Joined ACS in 1993; I have been on the Board of Directors for the Midland Section of the ACS, serving as secretary, and director. I have been chair of the Fair Booth, and the Sci-Fest Committees (Since 1995) for the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, and am current Sci-Fest chair. I have also been on the Board for the TECH Division of the ACS, serving as secretary for 2002.

Other Information: I have been a volunteer for Big Brother since 1974. I have been on the Board of Huntington's Disease Society of America Michigan Chapter Serving as secretary 2003 and 2004, vice president in 2004, and president from 2005 to present.

Personal Statement: I have been involved with public outreach for the Midland Section, chairing Sci-Fest, as well as doing demos in schools. I feel this raises public awareness of chemistry and gives students an interest in the sciences in school.

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

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