

the
**DETROIT
CHEMIST**

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A pdf file of the current Detroit Chemist can be obtained here
If you don't have Acrobat reader, it is available free at <http://www.adobe.com>

Compressed Gas Safety	
SPEAKER	David Maloney, Compressed Gas Safety Inc
PLACE	University of Michigan - Dearborn 138 Science Building _____
DATE & TIME	March 24, 2004 6:30 P.M. - Refreshments 7:00 P.M. - Presentation

Don't learn how not to handle compressed gases by accident!

Compressed gases are found in most in chemistry laboratories yet used improperly have the potential to kill or injure people. David Maloney of Compressed Gas Safety Inc. will discuss the hazards associated with compressed gases and provide instruction on the proper storage, handling, and use these materials. The presentation will be a good refresher for the experienced chemist and excellent training for the more recent graduate.

The University of Michigan Dearborn is located at 4901 Evergreen Road in Dearborn. Directions and a map can be found at:
<http://www.umd.umich.edu/about/campus.html> or see last page

For more information contact: Kevin L. Perry at (586) 986-1928 or Kevin.l.perry@gm.

A LETTER FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR: KEVIN PERRY

So that you and I get to know each other a little better, let me fill you in a bit on my background. I grew just south of Saginaw up in Bridgeport Michigan. High school was followed by a short, two year, career as an auto mechanic. Jobs were scarce because of the 1973 oil embargo, so I decided to “see the world” by joining the US Air Force for 4 years. During that time I attended classes at the University of Nevada -Las Vegas.

After my discharge, with the assistance of my veteran's benefits, I completed a B.S. degree in Biology at Central Michigan University. Equipped with my B.S., I obtained positions at a Metro Detroit Metal finisher, then an environmental testing laboratory. Finally, through what I attribute to a lot of luck, I obtained a position at the General Motors Research & Development Laboratories. Working on fuel chemistry at GM R&D and completing Hazardous Materials Management classes at Wayne State University earned me the credentials necessary to become a member of the ACS.

These days you can still find me at GM R&D where I divide my time between Chair of the R&D Safety and Hazardous Materials Committee, fuel chemistry research, and exhaust after-treatment system research. I enjoy what I do and consider myself very lucky to be in this position. Now, I have the opportunity serve this year as the Chairman of the Detroit Section of the American Chemical Society. The Detroit Section has a long and distinguished history. I am honored to have been selected to be Chairman.

I hope you will join us for one of our programs this year and take the time to introduce yourself to me.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: JIM LANDIS

I often get calls from members regarding their subscription to the Chemist and other ACS publications. Mailing addresses for publications are based upon the member's address of record with the ACS. If you are moving or need to change your address, please contact the ACS: Manager & Subscriber Services, ACS, P.O. Box 3337, Columbus, OH 43210; telephone 800-333-9511; or via E-mail; services@acs.org. You can also update your records at the acs webpage; chemistry.org. The Detroit Section also maintains an electronic mailing list

which is used to send out announcements of activities of interest to chemists in the Detroit area, including the electronic edition of the Chemist. To subscribe send an email to: majordomo@angus.mystery.com with subscribe detroit-acs, end in the body of the message. Please note that any comments regarding the Chemist or changes in e-mail addresses should be sent to me at: jim.landis@gt.org or 248-577-2217.

FLINT AREA SCIENCE FAIR WILL BE HELD

Volunteers are needed to help judge the entries at the Flint Area Science Fair. on March 19-23. This year will mark the 48th year for the Fair. Last year there were 373 student projects entered by the 4th-12th grade student from schools in Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee, and Tuscola counties. The Fair will be held at Kettering University again this year. Special awards, certificates, merchandise, or scholarships, valued at approximately \$20,000 are to be distributed among the winners. Come on out and see what these you scientist have done. For more information on the event, visit their web site at: www.Flintsciencefair.org.

A LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR: THEODORE F. BIERMANN

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as ACS Section Chair during 2003. The section has been successful in accomplishing its goals in the promotion of chemistry in our community, planning and sponsoring of many activities while remaining financially sound. This success is directly attributed to the energy and enthusiastic leadership provided by our executive committee members. As a testimony, the Detroit section was chosen as a finalist for five different 2003 Chemluminary Awards at the NYC National ACS meeting in September. Those areas included

- (1) Outstanding Large Section,
- (2) National Chemistry Week - Student Affiliate,
- (3) Career Program,
- (4) High School Program and,
- (5) Kids & Chemistry.

Although the section did not win these awards, the fact that we were finalists in all these areas is a sign of high achievement.

Meeting our 2003 operating budget of \$57,000, the section continued to fund several initiatives including Project SEED that provides opportunities for

disadvantaged high school students to gain research experience and the PTEG program which supports professional development of area high school chemistry teachers.

The Section continued its strong effort to support student education in science, coordinated through the Education Committee. For the nineteenth consecutive year, the Section supported the U.S. National

Chemistry Olympiad program. From among the many high school chemistry student participants, eight earned High Honors or Honors on the National Exam. National Chemistry Week was again sponsored by the Section at Cranbrook Institute. Several hands-on activities and demonstrations were provided by ACS volunteers for the many school children attendees.

The Kids & Chemistry program remained highly active, sponsoring hands-on experiments with elementary and middle school students.

Several informative section meetings were held during the year. In April, Dr. Joe Louvar gave an interesting presentation, entitled "Is Design of Experiments Justified?" Students at the University of Michigan-Dearborn attended the event.. The Women Chemists Committee hosted an informative presentation by Dr. Karen Schmitz on nutrition. The Midgley Award for outstanding research contributions in the field of chemistry to the automotive industry was presented to Dr. David Chock from Ford Research. His presentation "Auto Emissions and Our Atmospheric Environment" was well attended.

To help aid job seeking ACS members and students, the Careers Committee coordinated a seminar at Lawrence Technological University on Targeted Interviewing. Dr. Scott Erker presented the seminar.

Many informative meetings were co-hosted with the Detroit Anachem. These included sessions on forensic chemistry, statistical quality control applied to HPLC applications, surface enhanced IR spectroscopy, and tours of the FDA laboratories and Ash Stevens Process Development and Manufacturing Facilities.

A strategic direction for the Section has been to provide integrated activities with other local ACS sections. In May, a joint social event was held with the Huron Valley Section at Comerica Park to see a Detroit Tiger baseball game. In September, the Detroit, Huron Valley and Toledo Sections hosted their first Tri-Sectional meeting.

The annual dinner meeting with our Windsor CIC colleagues in Canada was held in May. A presentation was provided by Dr. John Fortman entitled "America's Funniest Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers". At that meeting, Kevin Perry received the Distinguished Service Award and we recognized our 50-year members and outstanding chemistry students from local high schools and colleges. The meeting was well attended with more than 80 attendees.

In cooperation with the National ACS, members of the Detroit Section met with Congressman Knollenberg of Michigan's 9th District to discuss the issue of funding for the National Science Foundation. The meeting was part of the ACS Science & Congress Project, which works to increase the level of awareness and knowledge in Congress about science and technology and its impact on policy issues.

In closing, as we enter 2004, this section is in good overall health. A balanced budget is in place for another productive year. An energetic slate of executive officers is in place, led by Kevin Perry as Section Chair. As was the case when I became Chair, Kevin inherits a Section in good shape.

COUNCILORS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

As you know, the Council of the American Chemical Society is made up of representatives from each Local Section and Division. This group of representatives from across the country meets twice a year to conduct business and vote on policy changes which effect the membership. What you may not realize is how large this group is -- almost 500 representatives, larger than the U.S. Congress! Accordingly, much of the "real" Council business is conducted by smaller Committees. Each year, Councilors may request an appointment which must be approved by the Office of the President for ACS. Some Committees are very popular, and it can be very difficult to get appointment to them (e.g., Society Committee on Education). Appointments can be as either a full "Member" (2-year term with voting privileges) or an "Associate Member" (1-year term without voting privileges). Service on a given Committee is limited to three consecutive terms (6 years), after which the Councilor must move on to an assignment on another Committee. The business of most Committees is usually conducted during the weekend prior to each National ACS Meeting, but can also involve many long hours at home in between the two meetings!

This year, the three Councilors for the Detroit Local Section all received appointments to national Committees. Our most experienced Councilor, Walter Siegl, was appointed as a Member to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

This Committee has the important task of reviewing virtually all new proposals to the Council to check for compliance with the national ACS constitution and bylaws. Thus, it is a key group which is actively involved with many other groups for the Council. Our next most experienced Councilor, Jim Landis, was reappointed to the Committee on Meetings and Expositions and the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities. The Meetings and Expositions Committee is responsible for arranging National and Regional Meetings while the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities coordinates the Society's activities in support of Chemists with Disabilities. Our newest Councilor, Charlene Hayden, was appointed as a Member of the Local Section Activities Committee. This group organizes leadership conferences for Local Section officers, conducts reviews of each Local Section's Annual Report, and reaches out to help the Local Sections (e.g., with mini-grants).

If you would like to know more about these Committees or have an idea you wish to share with the National ACS leadership, please contact one of us! You can reach us via E-mail at: wsiegl@yahoo.com, jim.landis@gt.org, or charlene.hayden@gm.com.

2004 METRO DETROIT SCIENCE FAIR: JUDGES NEEDED

The Section Environmental and Safety Committee will judge in the "Professional" category of the Senior Division of the annual Metro Science Fair again this year. Judging will be limited to projects dealing with both chemistry and the environment and will take place from 8am to Noon on March 31, 2004 at Cobo Hall in Detroit. Up to four prizes will be awarded. Anyone interested in helping to judge or to receive more information should contact Peter Warner at 313-821-6021 or email Ed Havlena at 73230.1340@compuserve.com

DETROIT ACS EDUCATION, SILVER CIRCLE, HOSTED BY BASF

Dr. Jay Otten and others of BASF hosted a public outreach morning on the 31st of January, for high school teachers, Silver Circle members, and the UDM Chemistry Club. The event, co-sponsored by the Detroit ACS Education Committee, was a chance to get interested people together to discuss ideas, and to let teachers and others know what public outreach efforts BASF offers. BASF personnel gave a history of the company, discussed its production of various chemicals, treated attendees to several eye opening demonstrations, and organized a facilities tour.

Teachers and other attendees were treated to a trip through the manufacturing

facilities at the Wyandotte site, as well as a visit to the R&D laboratories. All present were able to learn from and ask questions of BASF personnel on everything from thermosetting plastics manufacture, to the uses of scanning electron microscopy as an analytical tool. All involved appeared to have a good time, and several attendees commented that they took away some valuable, new information to use in their own classes or in their own studies. Thanks go to Dr. Otten, as well as all the BASF employees who gave up their Saturday morning to make the event a success.

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RACING TO A HIGH PERFORMANCE FINISH

The Detroit Society of Coatings Technology (DSCT) is sponsoring the 29th Annual FOCUS Conference on the theme: Racing to a High Performance Finish. The Conference will be held on May 4, 2004 at the MSU Management Center in Troy, Michigan. The conference is an educational event for coatings formulators and manufacturers, end users, raw material and equipment suppliers, educators and students. The conference features 16 technical speakers in two tracks and a two tutorial sessions. ("Crosslinking in Coatings" and "Analysis of Coating Defects")

The conference also includes an all day Coatings Showcase exhibit by suppliers to the industry. Registration is \$90 prior to April 16 and \$125 at the door. (Students, \$40). Program and registration information can be found on the Detroit Society website, www.dsct.org.

JOB OPENING-CHEMISTRY INSTRUCTOR

The University of Michigan-Dearborn has an opening for a full-time lecturer (nontenure-track) in Chemistry to begin in Fal, 2004. Responsibilities will include designing, preparing, and performing chemical demonstrations and teaching in the General Chemistry sequence, with opportunities for additional teaching in the candidate's area of expertise. Masters degree or equivalent in chemistry or related field required, college teaching experience preferred. Send resume, transcripts, a summary of teaching experience, and names of three professional references to Chemistry Search Secretary, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment and strongly encourages applications from minorities and women.

2004 CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING:

June 2 - 4, 2004

Indiana University--Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Hosted by the Indiana Section

Technical sessions in all chemistry disciplines including highlights of recent advances in Organic, Medicinal, Analytical, Biological, Regulatory/Industrial, Agricultural and Inorganic chemistry. The meeting will also include significant

programming in chemical education (both HS and college), special award events (such as Industrial Innovation, HS Teaching, etc), special group activities (Younger Chemist, Women Chemists, SAACS), ACS governance visits, Employment Clearinghouse and much, much more!!

PORT HURON AREA CHEMISTS

If you are a chemical professional who lives or works in the Port Huron area and you would like to get involved in some science outreach programs, we are interested in hearing from you. Our hope is that we can find at least a small group of chemists who are interested in forming an active group. If you want to be included in future communications, please respond by e-mail to Mary Kay Heidtke (MKHeidtke@aol.com)

NEW FROM CAREER SERVICES

Begin 2004 with a new online service to enhance your career. Explore Advanced Career Tools (ACT)! These career tools include a free searchable database of nearly 300 articles on topics such as resume writing, interviewing, legal issues, stock, salary negotiations, and more.

You can also take advantage of personal career coaching that will provide one-on-one assistance in areas such as learning to succeed in performance reviews, developing skills in negotiating salary, and obtaining a detailed analysis of your behavioral style. This component of ACT, while a cost item, is discounted for ACS members at below-market rates. Visit <http://chemistry.org/careers> to use ACT.

KIDS & CHEMISTRY-TRIAL PROGRAM A GREAT SUCCESS

A hands-on Kids & Chemistry event was held on Thursday, November 20, at Post Middle School in Detroit. This was a particularly noteworthy event in that we were testing a new format and venue, one which we hope to repeat in the future. We are grateful to Gina Ludwig (BASF) for taking the initiative to set up the event and handle the planning. This was an after school event involving 13-year old students.

A group of 30 kids carried out experiments involving 5 activities that demonstrated the basics of polymer chemistry and illustrated the role that polymers have in our everyday lives. This was a classroom-type event that used prepackaged kits developed by the ACS for Kids & Chemistry. The kids

responded with enthusiasm and many mentioned that they would like to take chemistry when they went to high school. They also indicated an eagerness to do more experiments with the Kids and Chemistry volunteers. The teachers and principal were thrilled to have Kids and Chemistry at their school and have already extended an invitation for Kids and Chemistry to return. The success of the program was also due to the participation of our other volunteers: Mary Kay Heidtke (Magni Industries), Megan Klein (Ash-Stevens), Zora Djuric (Karmanos Cancer Institute), Manoj Gupta (BASF), and Felix Schneider (U.S. FDA, Retired). Karen Kellam (BASF) was also instrumental in making the program a success.

If you think you would like to participate in an event like this, send your e-mail address to siegl@sbcglobal.net and we will notify you of our next program.

SECOND ANNUAL TRISECTIONAL MEETING

In cooperation with the Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Warren Astronomical Society, the Detroit, Huron Valley and Toledo Sections Present: Astronomy and Chemistry Day with Jack & Gratia Lousma on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, MI. We invite you to join us for "Astronomy and Chemistry Day" at the Cranbrook Institute of Science (www.cranbrook.edu/institute/index.shtml). Kids of all ages can enjoy hands-on chemistry experiments between 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. There will also be a chemistry game with prizes for the younger participants (tentatively set for 1:00 PM). The Observatory will be open for viewing the sun safely in hydrogen alpha light (weather permitting). Get an up-close look at the different kinds of telescopes that amateurs use, make star-charts, or view the towering T. rex in the "Our Dynamic Earth" exhibit.

Col. Jack Lousma, former NASA astronaut, will present a talk at 3:00 P.M. on space travel. Col. Lousma has logged over 1,619 hours. He also spent 11 hours on two space walks, outside the Skylab Space Station (www.nauts.com/vehicles/70s/skylab.html;20040120140031961). His last mission was March 22nd, 1982 as spacecraft commander aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia. Gratia Lousma will discuss the unique challenges of being an astronaut's wife, a mother, and a community leader all while her husband is out flying around the world! A special reception for ACS members and their families will precede the talk (at 2:30 PM).

Reservations to the talk are limited to the first 100 ACS members. Reservations will be accepted between 8:00 A.M. April 5th and 5:00 P.M. April 19th, 2004, two adults per reservation, four ticket maximum per family. Seating will also be

available on the day of the program on a first-come first-served basis. Talk is free with museum admission. Special museum admission price of only \$1.00 (100 cents) in honor of the 100th year of Cranbrook! Cranbrook hours are 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. for viewing permanent displays. Everybody is welcome to join us for the day!

To make a reservation or for additional information, please contact Charlene Hayden at (586) 986-0854 or Charlene.Hayden@gm.com. Please include phone # or E-mail address.

GOOD TURNOUT FOR MIDGLEY AWARD WINNER DAVID CHOCK

An awards ceremony was held on November 20, 2003 at the Henry Ford Estate to honor the recipient of the 2003 Thomas Midgley Award, Dr. David P. Chock, Technical Leader, Environmental Modeling at Ford Motor Company. Dr. Chock was recognized for his many contributions to the understanding of the environmental fate and impact of motor vehicle emissions. At the reception, he was presented with the Midgley medal, an honorarium, and a copy of Thomas Midgley's biography (written by Thomas Midgley's grandson and personally inscribed by him for Dr. Chock). He then presented a stimulating seminar touching on the history and future challenges of environmental emissions control. Approximately 40 people turned out for the event, which included refreshments and lively discussion before and after the lecture.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't Forget the ACS Spring National Meeting is in Anaheim, California, March 28-April 1

March 24th, 2004

David Maloney of Compressed Gas Safety, Inc will be conducting a talk on compressed gas safety. The topic will be the proper handling of compressed gases.

April 20, 2004

Ann Mary Nefcy will speak on "Today's Environmental Chemistry:
What are we doing? Where are we going?"
Details will be announced in the April Chemist.

April 24, 2004, 1-4pm

Second Annual Trisectional Meeting, at the Cranbrook Institute of Science as part of the Cranbrook "Astronomy Day" Celebration with speaker: Astronaut Jack Lousma.

NOTE: RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE TALK.

May 4, 2004

The Detroit Society of Coatings Technology (DSCT) is sponsoring the 29th Annual FOCUS Conference on the theme:
Racing to a High Performance Finish. .

June 2 - 4, 2004

2004 Central Regional Meeting
Indiana University--Purdue University at Indianapolis.

September 21, 2004

September Section Meeting
Dr. Alexander M. Shedrinsky
Amber, Real and Fake.

Details will be announced in the September Chemist.

[DETROIT ACS SECTION AND ANACHEM ON THE WEB](#)

ite for the Detroit ACS Section and ANACHEM, maintained by Ed Havlena can be found at: <http://www.detroitsection-acis.org> The Detroit Chemist is now also available via email in text-only form. The email version is distributed at the same the issue goes to press (much sooner than the printed and bulk mailed edition). To subscribe send an email to: majordomo@angus.mystery.com with subscribe detroit-acis end in the body of the message.

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DETROIT SECTION MARCH MEETING SITE

