



## American Chemical Society Western Michigan Section February, 2016 Newsletter

### New Officers for 2016

The website has been updated to include all new offices for the executive committee for 2016. The link is <http://westernmichigan.sites.acs.org/>. A list of all of the past chairs has also been posted. Take a look and see how many of the names you recognize!

### Website Update

Our current web master, Richard Lord, has been actively updating our website. The link is above. Included are reimbursement forms for students attending national meetings, a list of all past chairs for the local section, details on the ACS-PIB event hosted by GVSU and the local section, and the 2016 executive board members. If you have upcoming events at your company/organization/university that are open to the public please let us know so we can include them! You may contact our webmaster, Richard Lord, directly at [lordri@gvsu.edu](mailto:lordri@gvsu.edu) to have events added to the website.

An **Outreach** section has been added. Please let Dr. Lord know of any outreach events you have recently been involved in. His email is in the list of Officers on the website.

We have begun a listing of **Events** in the area which are free and open to the public. If you want a link to your event, please contact Dr. Lord.

Don't forget to check the **Jobs** section. Job listings should also be sent to Dr. Lord.

Soon we hope to have:

1. A link to all of the students that the section has sponsored to travel to and present at ACS National or Regional Meetings.
2. An interactive map of the West Michigan section that incorporates links to websites of the various schools and companies involved in the section.
3. Possibly a History section with more interesting facts from year ago.

### Offer for Students Attending ACS Meetings

The West Michigan Local ACS Section will help support students presenting at either of the 2016 ACS National Meetings (San Diego, 3/13-17, or Philadelphia, 8/16-20). The cost of Undergraduate Student Member / Affiliate registration (\$105) will be reimbursed through the faculty mentor after each meeting. The re-imbursement form can be found on the Local Website <http://westernmichigan.sites.acs.org/>. Good luck to all our local section undergraduate students – enjoy the national meetings!

### 2015 Regional Meeting Update

The regional meeting last summer was a great success and we hope to have an update in the next newsletter edition.



### Chemistry Olympiad

West Michigan ACS is pleased to offer the opportunity for local high school students to take the ACS Chemistry Olympiad qualifying exam during the month of March. Our event is being run in a very different format, this year. We are asking local teachers to host the exam in their own school buildings. Past years have simply not been successful due to multiple scheduling and transportation challenges. West Michigan ACS will provide the exam booklets to the teachers, and the teachers will simply need to hold the exam with their students during the month of March and return the exams to the section coordinators for scoring. Grand Valley State Univ. chemistry department is once again coordinating the exam. The top 10 student scores (limited to 2 from any one school) will be invited to GVSU in late April for the completion of the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam which consists of multiple parts include a wet-lab component. Sadly, due to security concerns, the United States will not be sending a team to the international event which is located in Pakistan this summer.

Please contact Dr. Blair Miller ([millerb@gvsu.edu](mailto:millerb@gvsu.edu)) if you have questions.

### GVSU Hosts ACS Webinar

On February 9th, Western Michigan section of ACS and the Grand Valley State University hosted a live webinar from the ACS program in a box series titled "The Role of Chemistry in Global Security." ACS described the seminar in the following way..."In an increasingly dangerous world, find out how important chemistry is to ensuring your everyday safety. Journey through the history of chemical and biological warfare and get a peek behind-the-scenes at how today's biochemists and government agents are working together to counter chemical-based threats."

This seminar was open and free to the public, it was streamed live at GVSU (Allendale) with software/hardware that will let the audience interact directly with industry experts presenting this seminar. These experts included:

[Jessica L. Epstein](#), Saint Peter's University; [Kristin Omberg](#), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; [Theirry Dubroca](#), National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; [David A. Jett](#), National Institute of Health CounterACT Program; [Randall Murch](#), Ex FBI Laboratory Forensic Biologist and [Darcy Gentleman](#), Engagement and Science Comm. ACS

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### GVSU Hosts ACS Webinar (continued)

We had a great group of students and chemists from Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College, Ferris State University, one high school student and our local section. In total 26 people attended the event in Padnos Hall, Allendale Michigan for tacos, networking, games, prizes and learning about chemical weapons. We raffled off 2 two glass beaker mugs and two CEN water bottles provided by ACS. Special thanks to our WM local section for providing the funds for the food, to Michelle DeWitt for buying and cooking dinner and pulling this together. Thank you C'arra Miller (GVSU chemistry club) for handling the game and helping with clean-up. Thank you Aaron Hilsamer (GVSU Chemistry Club) for handling the computer for the presentation.

This was posted on Facebook and ACS Safety Listserve.

If you want to replay or see the webinar it is on You-tube, find it with the link below:

<http://westernmichigan.sites.acs.org/acspibglobalsecurity.htm>

It was an interesting mix of presentations from government, research and environmental chemists discussing a variety of aspects of chemical security issues, from air modeling of agent dispersal, to analytical chemistry used at TSA screening sites, to extra-science considerations involved in addressing perceived threats. Many of the discussions touched on topics that often arise in the EHS context.

Items for the Newsletter may be submitted to James Krikke (GVSU) at [krikkeji@gvsu.edu](mailto:krikkeji@gvsu.edu)