

Speaker for the October ACS Meeting

James Benko, Sr. Chemist at MicroLab Services, will present a talk entitled "Silicones and Snowflakes". The talk will be given at **Hope College** (Schaap Science Center, room 1000) in Holland, MI at **7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 3, 2012**. Light refreshments will be available at 7:00. We hope to be distributing awards to our 50 and 60-year member at the start of the meeting (see below). A summary of Jim's talk follows.



Socrates once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Benko says "to examine it thoroughly you need a microscope." The quality control of many items in industry depends on identifying contaminants and microscopic techniques are often employed to do this. A materials detective who knows what to look for can often quickly identify these contaminants to solve the problem using micro chemical methods. We will see how seemingly diverse objects such as silicones and snowflakes can have similarities. Some colorful images of chemical crystals will also be shown. The talk should be of interest to chemists as well as those who appreciate art.

Jim Benko is a chemist with nearly 50 years experience in analytical chemistry and microscopy. He is a past chairman of the West Michigan Section of the ACS and has produced more than 20 publications and patents.

50 and 60-Year Members to Receive Recognition at Oct. 3 Meeting

The ACS will be presenting awards to the following individuals who have attained 50 or 60 years of membership with the ACS. If you see any of these members, be sure to congratulate them.



50 Year Members

Dr. Roger N. Brummel
Mr. Henry R. Greeb
Mr. Robert Lilenfield
Dr. Thomas Tisue

60 Year Members

Dr. Eugene C. Jekel
Dr. Joseph H. Mahhart
Dr. William Schroeder

West Michigan Section to Co-host the 2015 Central Regional Meeting

Plans are being made for the West Michigan Section to host the Central Regional Meeting with the Kalamazoo Section in 2015. Any members wishing to get involved in the planning process should contact our Councilor, Dr. Mark Thomson at MarkThomson@ferris.edu.

Approved - Electronic Balloting This Fall

At our last election 67 of 72 voting members were in favor of sending out ballots electronically this fall. The by-laws have been amended to include this new procedure, which will streamline the voting process. The changes were submitted to the National ACS and approved as of August 02, 2012.



Also.... Please remember to vote this November for the presidential candidate of your choice!

Positions available locally



Our local section is looking for members who wish to serve with our local section. The following positions are available: Alternate Councilor and Historian. Contact Jim Krikke (krikkeji@gvsu.edu) for information if you are interested.

Please consider volunteering. It's not that much work and can be a great resume builder!

National Chemistry Week Update

Coordinator, Lou DuPont has begun working on this event for our local chapter. The event will be held on Saturday, October 13 from noon until 4:00 PM at the Lakes Mall in Muskegon, MI. Local businesses, colleges and universities will have hands-on activities for young people and four demonstrations will be given. Activities will be at the main entrance, near the food courts. Demonstrations will be held every hour starting noon:



Duane VandenBrink (Gentex Corp), noon to 1pm

Joel Nemes (Gentex Corp), 1pm to 2pm

Jim Krikke (GVSU), 2pm to 3pm

Dr. Wallace Fu (Hope College), 3pm to 4pm

White House Promotes Science Volunteerism (see C&E News, Sept. 3, 2012, p56)

A recent issue of C&E News promotes encouragement of science professionals to volunteer actions that promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Chemists at Grand Valley State University were very active this year by providing demonstrations for local schools, camps, and child care facilities.

On March 23, Hudsonville Christian Middle School held Sensational Science Day where Jim Krikke, lab manager at GVSU, performed three demonstrations with about 60 students at each presentation. Students were able to see a clock run with electricity produced by orange juice, experiments with dry ice and liquid nitrogen, and color changes brought about by use of acids, bases and indicators.

Jim also helped two Tutor Time locations celebrate summer science week, one in July and one in August. For each session, about 12 children ages 6 to 12 came to GVSU and were led on a tour to see the Little Mac Bridge, the large Foucault pendulum, the coin orbiter wishing well, aquariums, and rock and fossil displays. After the tour, the children were led to a laboratory classroom where they were able to experience a set of demonstrations similar to the ones performed for the middle school (above).

Chemistry Department Activities for Visually Impaired Students

Also in August of 2012 faculty members from the GVSU chemistry department held the second annual hands-on activity session for a group of 20 visually impaired students and helpers from Camp Tuhsmeheeta. During the hour session students made slime and explored the influence of molecular structure on properties with chiral compounds and polymers. The session ended with the students experiencing exploding balloons and liquid nitrogen ice cream. The session was lead by Jim Krikke, Michele DeWitt, Dr.'s Barrows, Biro, Pentecost, Smart, and stockroom workers. The faculty and staff involved were rewarded with a room full of excited and eager students, whose enthusiasm was truly infectious – an excellent reminder of why we teach!