

March 2008 Section Meeting

- Topic:** Herbal Products: They're Natural but Are They Safe?
- Speaker:** Dr. David Wiemer, University of Iowa
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 PM
- Location:** University of Michigan—Dearborn, Room 1122 in the Computing Wing of the Science Building (see map on page 19)

Abstract Herbal products have become big business in the United States. Infomercials, radio and television commercials, and print ads trumpet the benefits of natural remedies for various illnesses or as aids for weight loss or in programs to stop smoking. These products are commonly described as “all-natural” and draw on the common belief that if something is natural it must be safe. But does this belief have any scientific basis? Native peoples often have used plants to treat disease or illness, and both traditional remedies and other plants have given rise to many of the drugs used in Western medicine. However, many natural materials are highly toxic, and some natural products are useful precisely because they are highly toxic. In this presentation, examples of both the beneficial and harmful compounds found in nature will be presented, along with a description of the strategies that are used to isolate biologically active compounds from natural sources.

The Speaker: Dr. David F. Wiemer received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Marquette University in 1972, before moving to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to pursue graduate study in organic chemistry. He received the Ph.D. in 1976 for work in synthetic organic chemistry under the direction of Nelson

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J. Leonard, and then continued his career with postdoctoral study at Cornell University under the direction of Jerrold Meinwald. He joined the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa in 1978, and now holds the rank of professor. His honors include a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship, a fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, and a University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award. Dr. Wiemer is interested in the isolation, characterization, and synthesis of biologically active natural products and the field of chemical ecology. His research projects include studies of the chemical basis of host-plant resistance to defoliation by leafcutter ants and of natural insecticides and anti-fungal agents in general. He also is involved in the chemical synthesis of various terpenoids with anti-viral, anti-leukemic, and anti-proliferative properties and in the development of new methodology for organic synthesis based on organophosphorus chemistry.

The group will continue the discussion over dinner with the speaker after the talk.

2008 DETROIT METRO SCIENCE FAIR

The 2008 Metro Science Fair will be held March 10-15 in Detroit's Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit. The Section Safety and Environmental Committee will again be judging in the Professional Senior Division of the Fair. As in prior years, only projects dealing with the combination of the environment and chemistry will be judged by the Committee. Exhibit Judging will begin at 8:30 am on Wednesday, March 12th and will be completed by noon or shortly thereafter.

If you would like to help with the judging contact Peter Warner 313-821-6021 or Ed Havlena at 313-393-3685. More about this program can be found at www.detroitsection-ac.s.org under Section awards/ science fair awards

A Commentary by Mark Benvenuto:

Thank You!

To everyone in the section, thank you for your support! At our last Executive Committee meeting of 2007 the gavel was passed to Professor Steve Scribner; and now I'd like to thank you all for a great two years. We have one of the best sections in the nation, we have been recognized by the national headquarters for our accomplishments and as the best section in the Medium Large category, and the credit for that has to go to all our active, hardworking members. Here's a brief recap or perhaps some of the highlights of the last two years, with my apologies for anything or anyone I have omitted.

Our participation in the Rouge River Water Festival continues to be strong. We have been teaching the basics of water chemistry to hundreds of younger students there for years now. It's wonderfully ironic that the ACS national HQ now has a focus on green chemistry, when Felix Schneider and all the rest of the crew that works the Water Fest have been teaching precisely that for years. Way to go!

Career fairs. Last year was a rough one for Michigan, with the closing of the Pfizer facility in Ann Arbor. While our section was already known for having some well run career fairs, we responded to the Pfizer closing by ramping things up. We also set up an impromptu network of ACS local section leaders in Michigan, to see if we could trade information about job openings, and hopefully keep some of these fine folks in Michigan. Plus, for this career fair we went to new heights. We got in touch with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and brought a number of company reps to our gathering in April 2007. We had job seekers of all sorts – including one young man who was finishing his post doc – who had heard about this from our web site, and flown in from Saskatchewan! Congrats to Megan Klein for organizing this gathering, to Mary Kay Heidkte and Meghann Mouyianis for all their hard work on it, and to Ed Havlena for keeping our website that up to date.

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We continue to have a presence at the Detroit Taste Fest. Who says great chemistry doesn't go along with great food and fantastic tunes? For several years now many of our members have volunteered some of their time to man our Kids and Chemistry booth at the Taste Fest. The squeal of little ones as a dry ice canister pops is something that never gets old. As a matter of fact, all the hands-on demonstrations we do there are fun, and the kids love 'em! Thanks to Gina Ludwig, Mary Kay Heidkte, Walter Siegl and their modern day band of merry men who put so much effort into this event each year.

We have continued to have an excellent student affiliates meeting each spring. The last two have been hosted by U of D Mercy and Oakland University. Each year it's amazing just how much our students are producing that is worthy of presentation and discussion. Thanks to all the Student Affiliate Chapter Advisors, and to the student officers of each chapter. You're the ones who make it happen.

In 2007 the joint ACS-CIC meeting and awards dinner was moved back to the University of Windsor campus last May. It was my first dinner there, and it made me wonder why we had been hauling ourselves all the way to our other location for so long. Sure, our older, established spot was fun, but at the University the food was excellent, Phil Dutton, Jim Green and their crew did a fantastic job making sure the event ran smoothly, and we were lucky enough to have outgoing ACS President Bill Carroll as our after dinner speaker. I received numerous compliments after that one, from folks on both sides of the river. In addition, Professor Dutton has indicated that UW will be willing to host again. So, if you missed it last year, join us this time. The tentative date is May 14th, and our planned speaker is ACS President Katie Hunt.

We have also had excellent National Chemistry Week activities at the Cranbrook Institute of Science for several years now. Our volunteers seem to come out of the woodwork for this one, and we end up with stations set up in different spots throughout the

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Institute, plus have a couple of chemistry magic shows, run by a student affiliates group. Denise Grimsley has led this charge for over five years now, and does a tremendous job each and every time.

Some years back then-Chairman Kevin Perry was wise enough to send out a brief questionnaire along with the annual ballot, asking what our members desired. What we found out through that was that our members wanted a more pro-active, environmentally conscious position on a number of issues. We heard ya! In the past two years we have produced a pamphlet on the proper disposal of used prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications, and a pamphlet on the proper disposal of old batteries. Both are available via e-mail, and are free for the asking. Also, as I leave the Chair position, we are still working on a similar effort about the proper disposal and treatment of old cell phones and computers.

As if all that wasn't enough, in the past two years we have been named the best section in the nation by the national HQ! I took a bit of good natured grief for broadcasting this by producing "champs" rings through Jostens, which any section member could buy - and still can, I might add. The grief came from some of my fellow committee members (whom I accused of being too cheap to want to buy a ring) as well as a person or two from ACS Secretary Flint Lewis' office at the HQ (whom I accused of not being creative enough to have thought of this themselves). In my defense, I pointed out that football players just have to win one game - the Super Bowl - to get a big, shiny, obnoxious ring, while we had to work for an entire year to earn ours. So buy one and wear it with pride.

As if taking grief for the rings weren't enough, I've been mildly chided for "empire building" as well, in that we have had functions up at UM-Flint, the base for our newly reinvigorated Flint Sub-Section, as well as out in Port Huron, where the fine people at St. Clair County Community College (aka. SC4) hosted a talk last year. I say, let's keep on empire building, and have some further events at each location.

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And of course, we wouldn't know much about any of these happenings if it wasn't for Jim Landis' unceasing efforts to put out the Detroit Chemist in print and e-mail form. Thanks, Jim.

Whew, that short recap got rather long. But these are just some of the things your section is doing. I haven't even hit on our numerous Project SEED activities, the Professional Training Enhancement Grants (PTEG) we award to high school teachers through our Education Committee, the strong program we have for the National Chemistry Olympiad, a visit our Government Affairs Chair had to Capitol Hill last year (yes, the real Capitol Hill, in DC), or any of the activities of our Younger Chemists Committee, and Women's Chemist Committee.

If all of the above seems a little foreign to you, that just means you haven't popped into an event or a meeting in the recent past. Please, by all means, rectify that this year, support our new Chairperson, and have some fun meeting and getting in touch with your fellow chemists. Again, thank you.

Submitted by Mark Benvenuto, Past Section Chair (2005-6)

HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Education Committee of the Detroit Local Section hosted its annual Professional Development Day for High School teachers on Saturday 2 February from 9 AM to 12 PM. The event, attended by 20 people, was a tour of the Ford Rouge Factory hosted by one of the green engineers that helped design the landscaping of the plant.

The day began with an early arrival at the Henry Ford in Dearborn, where buses depart to take visitors to the Ford Rouge Plant. After a short ride where participants were treated to a little Henry Ford and Dearborn history, our group arrived at the plant. The welcome area is decorated with Ford Motor Company automobiles from throughout the last 100 years. The tour began with a short movie detailing the rise, fall and rebirth of the Rouge facility. Our group learned of Henry Ford's vision for a factory where all the raw materials for making cars were processed on site, from ore and wood to steel and glass. At one time, the Ford Rouge factory was the largest manufacturing site in the world. However, Ford's opposition to unionization resulted in the infamous

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“Battle of the Overpass” on the Rouge site. This unfortunate event led to unionized labor (UAW) at Ford which lasts to this very day. Following some rough patches for the Ford Motor Company in the 1980s and 1990s, the Rouge was reborn as a \$2 billion green facility and currently assembles Ford’s popular F-150 pickup truck. The tour continued as participants were enveloped in a multimedia presentation, complete with sparks and smoke, detailing the “life” of an F-150, from raw materials to first test drive.

At this point in the tour, we took an elevator to the observation level, which overlooks the assembly portion of the plant from the outside. Our tour was supplemented by green engineer Dan Ballnick, who was the landscape planner for the Rouge’s rebirth. He detailed many of the innovations which both increase the sustainability of the plant and are economically favorable for Ford: porous concrete in parking lots to reclaim rainwater and disperse it to neighboring wetlands; native tree and beehive placement for clean air and increased pollination; solar panels to warm water used in the plant; reclamation of paint VOCs as fuel for running the painting facility; outside native wall vines to insulate the assembly building; toxin scrubbers on smokestacks; huge towers to reflect sunlight into the plant. Probably the best known green innovation at the Rouge is the huge 10 acre sedum “living” roof, which provides both bird habitat and natural water filtering capabilities.

The tour continued into the assembly plant where, even though it was mid-day on Saturday, F-150 trucks were being made. This part of the tour involves a bird’s-eye view of every part of the assembly process, from simple parts to test drive. Information kiosks throughout the facility allow visitors to aim cameras at different parts of the line and zoom in on specific processes, such as door assembly, windshield placement and chassis/cab attachment.

As the tour came to a close, one lucky high school teacher, whose name was chosen at random, received a copy of McDonough and Braungart’s *Cradle to Cradle*. This book was written by the sustainability architects who designed the rebirth of the Rouge in 2002. All agreed that the tour was both informative and thought-provoking, echoing the famous quote: when a reporter asked if the Ford Motor Company could afford to transform the Rouge’s sustainability, then-CEO Bill Ford, Jr. replied – “We can’t afford not to do this.”

Submitted by Matt Mio, Education Chair

2008 CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING OF THE ACS – CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts are requested for the 40th Central Regional Meeting (CERMACS 2008), which will be held June 10-14, in Columbus, OH. The Deadline for submission of abstracts is April 1, 2008.

CERMACS 2008 will convene at the Hyatt Regency, Downtown Columbus, next to the Columbus Convention Center, and will be hosted by the ACS Columbus Section. Please use the meeting website, www.cermacs2008.org to submit an abstract, to register for the meeting, and to monitor meeting updates.

The venue is conveniently located in the re-developed section of Downtown Columbus, with convenient access to COSI, Hands-on Science Center, www.cosi.org where the Opening Reception/SciMix event will take place, the Arena District and the Short North, which feature a variety of restaurants and shops. The Hyatt Regency location also offers easy transportation to access sites of interest, including The Ohio State University, The Columbus Museum of Art, and easy walking to The Ohio Theatre, parks, and weekend street festivals. For complete information, visit www.experiencecolumbus.com.

The meeting will feature technical sections on:

Advances Toward Green Chemistry; Homogeneous Catalysis; Membrane-active Peptides and Lipid Recognition; Protein Engineering and Design; Theoretical Modeling of Solvation: Methods and Applications; Chemistry of Supramolecules and Assemblies; Biomolecular Solid-State NMR Spectroscopy; Nanoscale Materials Chemistry; Alternative Energy Technologies: Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Environment; and Plastics and Polymers.

The meeting will include programs for High School Chemistry Teachers, College Education, the REEL Program; Women in Science Symposium; Forum on Underrepresented Minorities in Chemistry; and Regional Awards Banquet and Recognition Event.

Workshops being planned include: ACS Leadership Training Program: on Innovation and on Involving Volunteers; ACS Career Services; and Workshops related to Laboratory Safety.

Vendors are invited to participate in the CERMACS 2008 exposition. Interested persons should contact cermacs2008@chemistry.ohio-state.edu for details, or visit the exposition link at

International Travel

Just a note to remind you that the rules for International travel are changing and that a passport will be required to cross the US-Canada Border in the future. The Awards Meeting in May will be held with the Canadian Institute of Chemistry in Windsor. If you want to attend, please make sure that you have, or apply for, a current passport now!

Section Officers and Committee Chairs

The Detroit Section of the ACS is managed by an Executive Committee that is made up of the elected officers of the Section that include the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Secretary-Elect, Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, Councilors and Alternate Councilors and the chairs of the various Subcommittees of the Section. The current members of the Section's Executive Committee with contact information for each are listed on pages 10 and 11.

At the Executive Committee Meeting on January 8, a message was received from Charlene Hayden, Councilor and long time Section Officer, that she was resigning from her roles in the section due to relocation due to a career change. Chairman Steve Scribner appointed Mark Benvenuto to complete Charlene's term as Councilor. The Executive Committee unanimously endorsed this action. We wish Charlene all the best in her future endeavors and to Mark in his new role.



2008 Detroit ACS Section Officers and Committee Chairs

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DETROIT SECTION BYLAWS REVISION IN PROGRESS

Later this year, members of the Detroit Section ACS will be asked to approve amendments updating the bylaws under which the Section operates. The vote will be the final step in a two-year process which was initiated to bring the bylaws into compliance with changes in the national bylaws and to make changes that will allow the section to operate more effectively. The Detroit bylaws were last updated in 1982.

The process began with a review by Walter Siegl who, as one of Detroit's three councilors, sits on the national Committee on Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) and accordingly has the most experience with bylaw matters. Walter's recommendations were presented to the Section's Executive Committee in 2006. At a special meeting, the Executive Committee considered his recommendations and carried out a line-by-line review of the current bylaws. In addition to anticipating required changes from the national ACS, the committee considered how the current bylaws impact Section operations and how they could be improved. The proposed amendments emanating from the Executive Committee meeting were then sent to Washington for a preliminary review by the Council Committee on Constitution & Bylaws. The report resulting from the preliminary review by C&B provided us with feedback on additional changes that would be required as well as some helpful suggestions. The feedback from that report has now been included in our proposed amendments to the bylaws. The document to be presented for a vote of the membership is currently undergoing a final review by a committee consisting of Mark DeCamp (U. of Mich-Dearborn), Jim Landis (Henkel), Kurt Reimann (BASF, retired), and Walter Siegl (Ford, retired). Once the final review has been completed, the amendments will be made available for review by the entire membership; you can expect to hear more about the vote in the coming months.

KIDS & CHEMISTRY

The Kids & Chemistry co-chairs, Denise Grimsley (BASF), Mary Kay Heidtke (Magni Industries), Gina Ludwig (Henkel), Felix Schneider (US-FDA, retired) and Walter Siegl (Ford, retired), met recently to review plans for the first half of 2008. One of the programs we have been involved with in the past, the Royal Oak Career Choices program, has been moved from March to some time in the fall. As a result, our first program this year does not occur until May. Our spring program includes:

- May 1, 2008 (Thursday) – the Detroit Kids & Chemistry group will participate in the Rouge Water Festival held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the 10th consecutive year. Last year we worked with 10 classes of 270 5th-grade students, the largest number in several years. Our hands-on experiment to determine the pH of various household and environmental water samples typically receives an enthusiastic response from the students. We'll be looking for 16-18 volunteers for this program.
- On May 21, we will return to Highmeadow elementary school for a Wednesday evening program. Last year we had four stations set up each with a different hands-on experiment. It was a fast-paced with approximately 200 students and their parents participating with great enthusiasm. We will need at least 8 volunteers for this program.
- On July 4th weekend, Kids & Chemistry made its 10th annual appearance at what has been renamed the Detroit CityFest. Last year we set up our booth with 3 different experiments and had close to 300 kids participate. For this event we try to recruit about 18 volunteers, asking them to work a 2-hour shift.

More details will be provided on these events as we get closer to their dates. If you have never participated in one of our programs, we invite you to join us. We are always looking for new volunteers. The format is simple. Our program organizers bring all of the supplies and will help you get oriented. All you have to

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do is show up and bring your enthusiasm. To be added to our e-mail list, send your name to wsiegl@sbcglobal.net.

Lest we forget, we would like to acknowledge those participated in the September program at the Cranbrook Science Institute: Felix Schneider (program organizer), Charles Deak (Charles Deak Laboratories), Emil Lozanov (WSU), Tom Ott (Oakland CC), Don Ray (Ford/Visteon, retired), Ron Schroeder (WSU, retired), and Joanna Szajnar (Cranbrook). We also thank Gina Ludwig (Henkel) who last November carried out a polymers demonstration and experiment with two classes at Orchard Elementary school in Almont, MI.

SALUTES TO EXCELLENCE – CALL FOR NOMINEES!

Each year the Detroit Section of the ACS presents Salutes to Excellence Awards to its members. Currently the Executive Committee is soliciting nominations for this award. In case you are not aware of the program, Salutes to Excellence is an award program that gives ACS members an opportunity to recognize the positive impact on everyday life made by a product of chemistry, a practitioner of chemistry, or a place of importance in chemistry. Therefore, if you know of someone who deserves to be recognized for his or her hard work, please send in the nomination. The nominee can also be an institution as well. For example, ABC Chemical Company was very involved in your local school district. As a result of their commitment, your students' interest in science increased.

Since the program was first unveiled in 2000 by the ACS Office of Community Activities (OCA) more than 251 honorees nationwide have received *Salutes to Excellence* recognition.

A central part of the event is the presentation of a commemorative plaque, furnished by OCA, for the honoree(s) for the chemistry achievement being honored. Each year the award is presented at the CIC meeting in May. The honoree(s) and their guest(s) will be invited to the awards banquet compliments of the Detroit Section.

If you have any questions on the criteria of the award, please contact Mary Kay Heidtke, Recognition Chair for the Detroit Section. Her e-mail address is mkheidtke@aol.com. Please submit your nominee(s) name along with a short paragraph describing why they should receive the award. This information can be submitted to Mary Kay at the address above. Please be sure to include your name and contact information in the e-mail. Please submit your nominations by March 21, 2008.

RETIREMENT SUPPORT GROUP

An increasing number of chemists are approaching normal retirement age or are thinking about or facing early retirement. Surviving and thriving in retirement takes planning. This planning should start at least several years before being faced with critical decisions regarding post-retirement activities and plans and how those will be funded.

The ACS Committee on Economic & Professional Affairs (CEPA) is sponsoring a Special Interest Group on Retirement Planning. The group will meet from 1:30 to 4:00 on Sunday April 6, 2008 at the 234 National Meeting in New Orleans. What follows is a partial list of the critical issues and questions to be considered in planning for your retirement.

Financial Issues

- Do you have a budget plan?
- Corporate benefits after retirement
- How secure is your pension?
- What is your investment strategy in you retirement years? including estate planning?
- Reverse mortgage implications
- Relative social security, 401K and IRA regulations
- Taxation
- Establishing trust accounts
- Inheritance tax rules - limits on capital gains
- Establishing foundations - for grandkids for tax advantages

Because of the complexity of the financial issues you may benefit from a financial adviser.

There are many other important factors to be considered. Here is a partial list of questions you might want to think about and discuss with your family:

- Healthcare/insurance planning.
- Medicare
- Prescription drugs

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- Health care supplemental insurance
- Long-term care issues

Explore Your Passions

- Where do you want to live, near family, near friends, in a retirement community, near assisted living, in the Sun Belt, etc. or stay put?
- Do you want or need to continue working?
- Do you want to keep active as a professional? Are you interested in volunteer work?
- Interest in continuing education?
- Interest in traveling, learning new things, expand your hobby, etc.?

Think about retirement as another job search. You are looking for ways to spend the rest of your life. What will you do with your time? If you do not have a set plan think about putting together a resume that includes your objective, your skills, and your work or hobby experience.

Come join the discussion group to learn and share ideas for planning your retirement. We can help each other by answering questions and exchanging information. Time will be set aside for the exchange of concerns and ideas. Presenters will include experts in private and governmental retirement and healthcare plans. We plan to have Lisa Balbes, author of "Nontraditional Careers for Chemists" talk about how to prepare for a second career in consulting.

In addition a representative from the ACS Member Insurance Group will discuss what the ACS offers for retired chemists. For more information contact Herb Silverman at agman@cox.net



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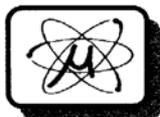
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each month. It has been estimated that
these buyers annually purchase more than
\$80,000,000 of:

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Placing an advertisement in *The Detroit
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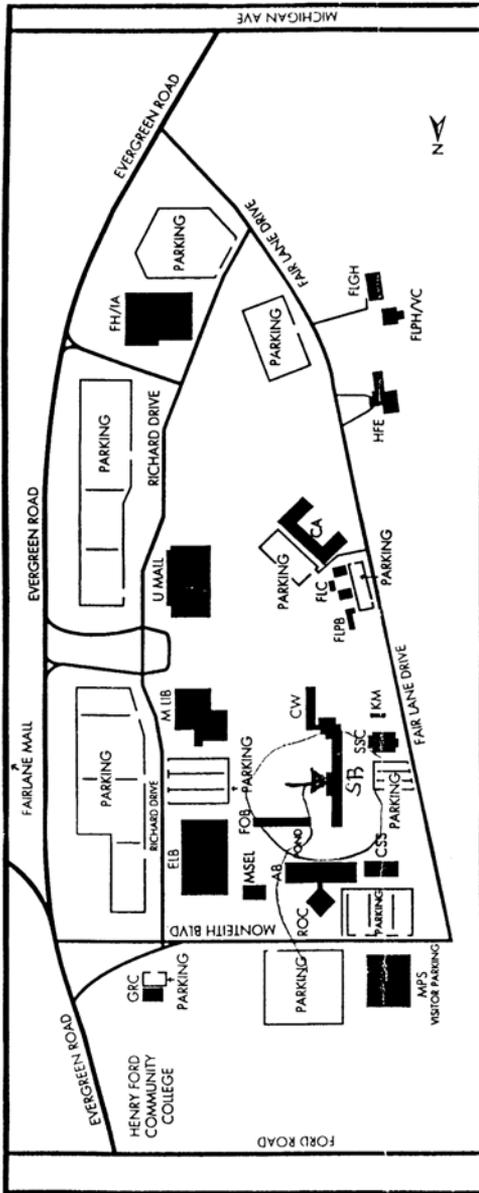
**For further information and other
options for promoting your compa-
ny's products and services visit:
www.mboservices.net**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

Location of March Meeting: the University of Michigan—Dearborn, Science Building (SB)



BUILDING KEY

AB	Administration Building	FLPB	Fair Lane Pony Barn	MPS	Monteith Parking Structure
CA	CASL Annex	FLPH/VC	Fair Lane Power House/Visitor Center	MSEL	Manufacturing Systems Engineering Lab
CSS	Campus Support Services	FH/IA	Field House/Ice Arena	ROC	Recreation & Organization Center
CW	Computing Wing	GRC	Gabriel Richard Center	SB	Science Building
ELB	Engineering Lab Building	HFE	Henry Ford Estate	SSC	Student Services Center
FOB	Faculty Office Building	KM	Kindergarten Module	UM	University Mall
FLC	Fair Lane Cottages	ML	Mardigan Library		
FLGH	Fair Lane Green House				

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 10 David Wiemer speaks on Herbal Products, *please see pages 1,2 and 19 for details.*

April 9 ACS-WCC April program on Retirement Strategies of the 21st Century by Jack J. Rothenberg-OFS, *please see the March issue of the Chemist for details.*

May 14 ACS Past-President Katie Hunt speaks at the Joint Awards Meeting with CIC, *please see future issues of the Chemist for details.*

September Lisa Balbes speaks on Non-Traditional Careers for Chemists, *please see future issues of the Chemist for details.*



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