

THE SCOPE



Michigan Branch- American Society for Microbiology
Spring 2008 Conference

"Small solution to a big problem: Microbes and Alternative Energy"

*Saturday, April 11 and 12 at Central
Michigan University. Mount Pleasant, MI*



The Spring 2008 meeting of the Michigan Branch- American Society for Microbiology will be held at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI. On Saturday, April 12, 2008, two seminars will be given on "SMALL SOLUTION TO A BIG PROBLEM: MICROBES AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY" by Drs. Thomas W. Jeffries (University of Wisconsin), and Daniel R. Bond (University of Minnesota). In

addition, this year there will be four short oral presentations made by our students. There will also be a student poster session and corporate sponsor exhibits. Please mark your calendars for this event!

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President's Report (Mary Ann Cardani)

It should come as no surprise that we have another great meeting planned for all of you. Last Spring we asked attendees to suggest some topics for future meetings. We had a large number of requests to explore the subject of alternative energy. We listened to you! Our Spring '08 meeting is titled, "A small solution to a big problem: Microbes & Alternative Energy". Steve Gorsich at Central Michigan has been hard at work putting together the details for our meeting. Dr. Daniel Bond from the University of Minnesota and Dr. Tom Jeffries from the University of Wisconsin will be our guest speakers.



The format of our Spring meeting will look a little different from that of our past meetings. Thanks to a suggestion by Dr. Joan Rose and Dr. Susan Bagley, we have added student presentations to the morning agenda. Four students will be chosen to give oral presentations explaining their research. In addition, Dr. Gorsich has added a panel discussion to the afternoon session so that we will have more time to hear from the experts. Along with the two guest speakers, Dr. Gorsich, Dr. Susan Bagley and Dr. Sonia Tiquia, members of the MI-ASM board who do research in this area, are also panel participants.

As president of MI-ASM, I receive a bi-monthly newsletter from ASM that highlights what is new at the national organization. I want to share some of the important highlights with you. ASM has modified its job posting site (free to ASM members) to make it more user friendly. You can find job postings at the site (www.asmcareerconnections.org). In addition, they have a site where graduate students and postdocs can view opportunities for professional growth (www.asmgap.org).

Finally, we are always looking for people who are interested in fuller participation in MI-ASM. Are you interested in serving on our board? Judging posters at our meetings? Hosting a meeting? Sharing ideas about topics for meetings? If so, please contact one of our board members or go to the MI-ASM website to contact us and to see more opportunities. We are a friendly group and welcome new members who are also passionate about microbiology.

President Elect's Report (Michael Ryan)

As with previous Branch meetings, we all expect to be enlightened and entertained by the presentations and discussions at this Spring's meeting at Central Michigan University. Please plan to attend and bring your students and interested colleagues as well. I also encourage you to talk to any board member about possible topics for future meetings that your or your student would find interesting!

Start thinking ahead to the Fall Meeting:

The venue and dates for the upcoming fall meeting will be discussed on Saturday, April 12.

Check out our newly designed website!

Dr. John Geiser has been updating the look and feel of the MI-ASM website. The site navigation and online information has been thoroughly refined and updated. You can check it out at (<http://mi-asm.org>)

Current MI-ASM Student Chapters

We currently have nine student chapters: Central Michigan University Microbiology Club, Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University Microbiology Club, University of Michigan-Flint Microbiology Club, Michigan State University Microbiology Club, Michigan Technological University Microbiology Club, & Tri-Cities Microbiology Club. Many of these chapters have websites that can be reached from the MI-ASM website.

POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The Michigan ASM encourages undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and other professional microbiologists to present posters at our Fall and Spring meetings. **STUDENTS who present a poster do not pay the conference registration fee and they receive a one-year free membership in MI-ASM. STUDENT ENTRIES will be judged and the winner of the "Best Student Poster" will receive a framed certificate, a copy of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt's classic text, and a free membership to the National ASM. To be eligible, the student presenter must be at their poster to discuss the findings with the judges during the judging period.** At this meeting we will provide easels. Presenters should bring their posters on stiff material (e.g., foam board) with a recommended size of 3' by 5'. Complete guidelines are available at the MI-ASM website.

CONFERENCE LOCATION, PARKING, & MISC. INFORMATION.

Meeting Organizer and Contact: Steve Gorsich, Central Michigan University



Meeting Location:

Bovee University Center Auditorium Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI.

Lodging:

The following hotels feature special rates for out members (mention American Society for Microbiology)

Fairfield Inn
2525 S Mission St
(989) 775-5000

Super 8
2323 S. Mission
(989) 773-8888

Hampton Inn
5205 E Pickard Rd
(989) 772-5500

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd
(989) 775-7777

Microtel Inn
5500 E Pickard Rd
(989) 772-7777

Other lodging accommodations may be made at these convenient locations:

Baymont Inn and Suites
5858 E. Pickard Rd.
(989) 775-5555

Best Western Inn
5770 E Pickard Rd.
(989) 772-1101

Budget Inn
1523 S Mission St.
(989) 773-6994

Comfort Inn and Suites
2424 S Mission St
(989) 772-4000

Directions to Central Michigan University (see meeting website for further details)

The Bovee University Center Auditorium is located on 300 E. Preston St. in Mount Pleasant, MI. This is located in the northwest portion of the CMU campus. You may get driving directions to the university on Google.com by entering “300 E Preston St, Mt Pleasant, MI” in the search field.

From the north:

Proceed south on I-75 and take exit 249 to merge onto US-127 S toward Lansing go about 69 miles. Exit onto N Mission St/US-127-BR toward Mt Pleasant for three miles and turn right at E Preston St.

From the direction of Kalamazoo:

Follow US-131 N toward Grand Rapids for 81 miles. Take exit 120 for M-46 E toward Saginaw and then turn right at Edgar Rd. Follow Edgar Rd for 17 miles and then turn left at M-66. After 12 miles, turn right at 9 Mile Rd. Proceed for 19 miles and turn right at S Franklin St and then onto 300 E Preston St.

From the direction of Lansing:

Proceed north on US-127 N toward Flint for 64 miles. Exit on the left onto US-127-BR toward Mt Pleasant and go 3 miles. Turn left at E Preston St.

GERHARDT ENDOWMENT

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch provides substantial support for student research and travel. The Gerhardt Endowment is used to enhance the microbiology research training of undergraduate and early stage graduate students in Michigan.

The Endowment funds are stipulated for: 1) Research Excellence Awards: awarded to students who demonstrate exemplary accomplishment in experimental design and results that are reported as a poster or an oral presentation at a MI-ASM meeting, 2) Travel Awards: granted to students to supplement other financial resources for travel so as to allow the awardees to attend an appropriate microbiology-related scientific meeting, or to obtain special microbiology-related research training.

The application procedure, amount and availability of the awards is published on the **MI-ASM website (MI-ASM.org)** and distributed to Michigan educational institutions offering microbiology-related programs.

MICHIGAN BRANCH/ASM CORPORATE PARTNERS

We thank our **Corporate Partners** for providing financial support for the Michigan Branch/ASM. We are grateful to our **Corporate Sponsors** for helping make this meeting a success. Corning, Thomas Stapleton; Promega, Ernie Riley and Jim Nowak; Morton Publishing, Harry C. Benson; Whatman, Gretchen Hathaway; and Sigma-Aldrich, Carol Carriere

Members are encouraged to support our **Corporate Partners**.

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Visit <http://mi-asm.org/> for further Corporate Partner details.

BALLOT

MI-ASM members,

Please vote for one person for each of the following elective offices. Ballots can be turned in at the Spring Meeting.

President-Elect	_____	Kris Baumgarten
Secretary	_____	Audra Swarhout
Alternate Councilor	_____	Susan Bagley

Proposals

MI-ASM has always sponsored excellent meetings in the Spring and Fall each year. As costs have increased, it has become more difficult to cover the costs of our meetings. In order to maintain the quality of our meetings, the MI-ASM board is therefore proposing an increase in annual dues. This proposal must be voted on by the general membership.

Shall the annual dues be raised from \$5 to \$10 for students and from \$15 to \$25 for regular members?